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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 25 | Min 13 | Humidity 46% Partly sunny Sensex 84,929 | Nifty 25,966 | Gold 1,33,747 | Silver 2,04,410 | Dollar 89.65 | Euro 105.22 | GBP 122.15

PLASTIC PERIL

Central Pollution Control Board figures reveal Karnataka generates 14% of total plastic waste in India and is quite shoddy with processing it

PAGE 4

FAT PAYCHECK

With per capita income of Rs 7.39 lakh in 2023–24, Bengaluru earns about 117% more than state average of Rs 3.40 lakh

PAGE 6

As helmet violations top traffic offence list, police and doctors insist this is not just about avoiding fines, it can decide how severe a crash will turn out to be

MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH

27.4 lakh riders and pillion passengers were fined this year till November

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Helmet violations continue to dominate Bengaluru's traffic offence list, accounting for nearly half of all cases booked in the city this year. Data from the Bengaluru Traffic Police shows that between January and November 2025, over 27.4 lakh riders and pillion passengers were fined for not wearing helmets nearly 46% of the 58.97 lakh total traffic violations recorded during this period.

According to official police records, 17,63,020 cases involved riders without helmets, while 9,84,461 involved pillion riders. With such increase in numbers, helmet violations remain the single largest category of traffic offences in the city.

While the traffic police have invested in campaigns, social media awareness and road safety

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"Some riders carry helmets on the handle, wear them halfway, or keep them unbuckled and wear it just to avoid fines. This false compliance makes enforcement challenging and exposes riders to life-threatening injuries

—Traffic police official

Wintertime and the breathing is uneasy

Other than the season, traffic, unpaved and damaged roads, garbage burning also hit Bengaluru's good air day count

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The number of good air days in Bengaluru has dropped significantly during November this year, as per data from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB).

Last year, while the city recorded 63 good air days across all 11 monitored locations for air quality, this year, the number has dropped to 26, representing a 58% decline.

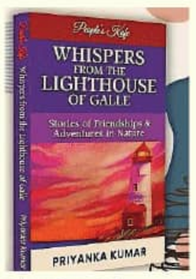
While the continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations (CAAQMS) at the city railway station, Jigani Industrial Area, RV College of Engineering in Kengeri, Kasturinagar RTO, Peenya Industrial Area, and Mysore Road recorded zero good air days, the station at Hebbal recorded seven such days, followed by six days in Saneguruvanahalli, six good air days near NIMHANS, five good air days in Jaynagar, and two near the Central Silkboard junction.

Air quality experts say below-average rainfall during the northeast monsoon can be the prime reason behind fewer good air days this November.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Sea of memories



Atta Galatta is presenting the launch of the newest installment in Priyanka Kumar's celebrated People's Kafe series 'Whispers from the Lighthouse of Galle', which brings together heartfelt stories and travel-infused memories that capture the healing magic of nature and the unspoken bonds we form with people and places. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: December 21, 5.30 pm**

02 Stage stories

No Pressure Improv returns with the Improv & Sketch Open Stage offering a great opportunity to get stage time and to play improv in front of a kind and supporting audience, who will be alongside you as you improvise and discover the make-believe. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: December 20, 7 pm**

03 Tales of love

GoBrahma Productions & Shivapriya School of Dance present Roopa Viroopa, a dance-theatrical production that explores the transformative power of love — one that sees beyond appearances. **Where: Good Shepherd Auditorium, Shanthala Nagar; When: December 21, 7 pm**

04 Musical celebration

Windmills is set to present O Gaanewali, a moving tribute to the iconic women who shaped Hindustani semi-classical music. The two-night showcase honours the lives and legacies of the legendary gaanewalis. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: December 20, 9.30 pm**

05 Rhythmic realm

Indiranagar SOCIAL is presenting a techno-heavy weekend as Caged and Mob Mind bring a two-day lineup to the neighbourhood. The focus stays on long-form sets, steady pace and a room that builds naturally through the evening. **Where: Indiranagar SOCIAL; When: December 20 and 21, 6 pm**

New sports complex set to replace Jakkur Aerodrome?

Ruling out real estate use, government discloses plans for international level sports training centre at Jakkur site; further action to be taken only after necessary approval is obtained

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Despite hue and cry, the state government is seriously considering shifting Jakkur Aerodrome out of Bengaluru and converting the land into a sports centre. On Friday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah answered an Assembly question by Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar stating that the Karnataka government was examining a proposal to permanently shift the Government Aviation Training School at Jakkur to Mysuru airport. However, Siddaramaiah clarified that the Jakkur airfield land would not be used for real estate or building projects, and that the Cabinet has decided to establish an international level sports training centre at the site. He added that further action would be taken only after obtaining approval as per the Karnataka High Court order in WP No 47713/2017.

BangaloreMirror
Flight dreams grounded: Jakkur Aerodrome training faces closure

BM published a story 'Flight dreams grounded: Jakkur Aerodrome training faces closure' on Dec 18, 2025, narrating how permission is being sought from civil aviation authority to relocate flight training school

Experts alarmed

Aviation experts have strongly opposed the move, warning that repurposing Jakkur airfield would irreversibly damage Bengaluru's aviation ecosystem. "Jakkur is one of the few remaining urban airfields in the country and plays a critical role in pilot training, emergency operations and aviation heritage," said a senior aviation expert. Another expert pointed out that the proposal also violates historical conditions attached to the land. "The land at Jakkur was handed over to the State with a clear condition by the Mysuru Maharaja that it must be used only for aviation training. Any attempt to convert it for non-aviation purposes goes against that commitment and should not be allowed," the expert said, adding that such legacy aviation infrastructure must be preserved at any cost in public interest.

Aviation experts strongly oppose move, say repurposing Jakkur airfield could irreversibly damage Bengaluru's aviation ecosystem

Uncertain future

Jakkur Aerodrome, long regarded as Bengaluru's primary nursery for pilot training, is staring at an unclear road ahead as the state government weighs a plan to relocate the Government Flying Training School to Mysuru. Citing limitations in existing infrastructure, the proposed shift has unsettled aviation professionals who worry that the airfield's core aviation role could slowly be eroded, opening the door to non-aviation activities at the historic site.

Years of apathy

Established on 218 acres acquired in 1948 and inaugurated by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, the aerodrome has trained hundreds of pilots over the decades. Yet, from the late 1990s onwards, the facility has struggled with persistent shortcomings such as inadequate instructors, grounded aircraft and erratic fuel supplies. As a result, training schedules for around 75 students have remained inconsistent, with experts maintaining that these issues reflect prolonged administrative neglect rather than any inherent limitation of the airfield.

Roadblocks ahead

An aviation expert said that the government has previously acknowledged two major constraints in expanding Jakkur Aerodrome: a newly constructed flyover that now interferes with flight operations and the failure to acquire roughly three acres of neighbouring land due to high costs and unwilling landowners. "With runway expansion on hold, attention has turned to alternative uses for the nearly 200 acre campus, a move aviation experts caution against, arguing that Jakkur's strategic location, existing VVIP helicopter operations and private aircraft activity make it better suited for upgradation into a modern aviation training centre than for dilution or relocation," said the expert.

Karnataka Sahitya Academy to digitise ancient Kannada epics

With the number of Kannada book buyers and readers steadily declining, the Karnataka Sahitya Academy has decided to digitise ancient Kannada poetic works, opening a new chapter in preserving the state's literary heritage. The move aims to take classical literature rich in human values and social harmony to the younger generation through easy digital access. Works such as Kavirajamarga, Pampa's Adipurana and Vikramarjuna Vijaya, Ranna's Gadayuddha, Raghavanka's Harishchandra Kavya and Kumaravyasa's Bharata will be digitised to ensure their protection and wider reach, Academy President Prof LN Mukundaraj said. He added that priority is being given to rare titles not easily available elsewhere.

The digitised books will be uploaded on the Academy's website and made available free for reading and download to anyone across the world. In the first phase, 10 works have been identified, with digital versions of six already ready. The initiative, supported by a young software engineer and writer who is working without remuneration, is being carried out at minimal cost, limited largely to typing, DTP and proofreading expenses. The Academy also plans to release digital versions of all new publications alongside print editions in the future, and hopes to formally launch the website hosting these works soon, reinforcing efforts to adapt Kannada literature to the digital age. **— BMB**

6,675 govt schools across state run by single teachers

As many as 6,675 government primary schools in Karnataka are being run by just one teacher, highlighting a severe staffing crunch that is affecting school management and classroom learning. With teacher shortages persisting, single teachers are forced to juggle multiple responsibilities, from handling all classes and administrative work to overseeing the mid-day meal and nutrition programme.

Despite the government rolling out several schemes and even introducing English-medium sections to boost enrolment and compete with private schools, the lack of adequate teachers has put immense pressure on the system. Official data shows that over 57,000 teaching posts remain vacant across primary and high schools. While guest teachers have been appointed in some schools to fill gaps, managing all grades continues to be a challenge, especially when teachers are required to attend meetings or training programmes. "In several districts, dozens of schools are functioning with only one teacher, while 188 government schools have reported zero enrolment this academic year, mostly in backward regions. Efforts are being made to ensure learning is not affected," said an Education Department official. **— BMB**

Years of waiting leave artists struggling without pension support

Artists who have spent a lifetime entertaining people are being forced to wait three to four years for a modest monthly pension, leaving many without support in their twilight years. In Karnataka, artists above 58 years of age with at least 25 years of service in fields such as Yakshagana, theatre and music are eligible for a government pension, but delays in approvals have pushed many into hardship. Except for a few well-known names, most artists live hand to mouth, and by the time the pension is sanctioned, many have already slipped into ill health or extreme financial distress.

Artists said that the process involves multiple layers of verification by local authorities, art academies, a state-level committee and finally the finance department, often stretching over years. Many artists are urging the government to simplify procedures so artists can live their final years with dignity. **— BMB**

Arbitrary phone restriction at police stations perplexes visitors

RTI application reveals there is no order mandating phones to be deposited before entering Station House Officer's chamber, though many in city have been told to do so without any explanation

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Visitors to police stations are not required to deposit their mobile phones before entering the Station House Officer's chamber, as no such order exists mandating the practice. T Narasimha Murthy, a social activist and resident of Halasuru, availed a reply from the Office of Superintendent of Police and Public Information Officer, State Police Head Quarters by submitting an application through Right to Information Act. Murthy sought information from the Public Information Officer, Director General & Inspector General of Police Office on April 8, 2022, whether any order, notification, direction, or announcement was made prohibiting carrying of mobile phones while entering police stations.

"No order, notification, direction, or announcement was issued by the Director General & Inspector General of Police on prohibiting public carrying mobile phones while entering a police officer's chamber at the police station. The SHOs will take a decision on this issue based on the situation," the reply from the Public Information Officer read.

Arbitrary ban

Social activists say that visitors are not allowed to carry mobile phones while entering the SHO chamber. "I visited Adugodi Police Station a few years ago. A police constable advised me to keep my mobile phone with him while entering the SHO chamber. Now, I can carry my mobile phone into the police station," said Ambrose, a resident.

Vijay Dennis, Founder & President KRTIWSS- Fight For Rights, said that he understands the need for discipline and security inside police stations but a blanket restriction on mobile phone usage, especially forcing citizens to deposit their phones in trays before meeting Station House Officer is illegal, arbitrary, and against democratic principles.

Not private spaces

He opined that police stations are public-facing institutions, not private spaces. "There are numerous instances where mobile phone recordings inside police stations have exposed abuse of power, corruption, and human rights violations, and such recordings have later become crucial evidence before courts. We have personally witnessed cases where citizens recorded videos inside police stations that revealed verbal abuse and misconduct by police officials, including a serious incident involving Inspector Prashanth of Adugodi Police Station, where abusive language was used against a member of the public. Such evidence is essential for ensuring justice and accountability," said Dennis.

HM Venkatesh of Naija Horatagara Vedike said that Group D employees at Lokayukta and Upa Lokayukta Offices insist visitors to deposit their mobile phones with them while entering Lokayukta and Upa Lokayukta chambers. "I am of the opinion that there should not be any restrictions on visitors carrying mobile phones if the authorities are transparent and immune to corruption," said Venkatesh.

Man attacks toddler

A five-year-old boy was allegedly assaulted by a man while playing outside his relative's house in Bengaluru. The incident occurred on Anche Road in Thyagarajanagar on December 14. The accused, Ranjan, allegedly kicked a five-year-old boy without provocation while he was playing outside. The child sustained injuries to his face, hands and legs. A case was registered at the Banashankari police station, and the accused was arrested. Police said the accused is suspected to have mental health issues, which are being verified. **–BMB**

All set to ring in the new year

In view of the upcoming Christmas and New Year celebrations, Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar has directed strict adherence to fire and electrical safety norms at events in malls, pubs, five-star hotels, bars and restaurants.

At a Yelahanka meeting, the Commissioner urged strict compliance with safety and crowd norms, directing establishments to maintain fire and electrical safety, keep exits clear, train staff, and warning of action against violations. **–BMB**

ADVERTORIAL

Kichcha Sudeep Launches Alankar Pandian's Budbee Resto Bar on Bannerghatta Road

Sudeep cutting ribbons

Reema Alankar, Alankar Pandian and Akash Alankar

Designer Romitha Singh with models

Alankar, Sudeep, Vinay Gowda

Kateera Fame Chetan and Yogeesh Dwarakesh

Jyostna & Ritu

Neha Roy

Shubha Sriram

Mona

Shweeta Maurya

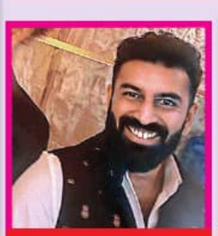
Geetha Priya and Satish Cadaboms

Lakshmi Krishna

Shwetha. N

Swetha Niranjan

Harshitha


Nalaapad

Prince Narula

Angiah

South Indian film producer Alankar Pandian celebrated the grand launch of Budbee – Resto Bar on Bannerghatta Road, inaugurated by actor Kichcha Sudeep, turning the evening into a star-studded celebration.

Speaking at the launch, Sudeep described Alankar as one of his closest friends and a trusted creative partner. "He has made films and is now into FMCG, apart from his active involvement with SIIMA and CCL. He discusses every new venture with me. I really like this place—it's spacious and welcoming. I wish him great success and hope he opens many more Budbee outlets," Sudeep said.

A thrilled Alankar Pandian shared that his bond with Sudeep has grown stronger since Vikrant Rona. "He is my wellwisher. I wanted him to launch Budbee, and he did. Very soon, I am planning to associate with him on Budbee.in as well," he revealed.

The launch event was graced by Bigg Boss contestant Sathish, actors Yogish Dwarakesh and Kateera-fame Chetan, adding glamour to the evening. Alankar's family members—his brother Angiah, wife Reema Alankar, and son Akash Alankar—were also present.

A colourful fashion show designed by Romita Singh was one of the major highlights, while Sudeep's entry sent fans into a frenzy. With its premium food, vibrant ambience, and large, family-friendly space, Budbee is already attracting strong corporate and youth crowds in South Bengaluru. With this addition, Budbee now has four outlets across Bengaluru.

The event was curated by Traffix One – TimesMahesha.com.

Winter's favourite veg: Avarekai back with a bang

Bengaluru's most loved winter vegetable has made a fresh splash in city markets, signalling the return of the much-awaited avarekai season. Fresh avarekai (hyacinth beans) have begun arriving from neighbouring districts, selling at around Rs 100 per kg for 1.5 kg, and customers are queueing up despite the early-season price tag. Traders say demand has picked up sharply as the first harvest hits the market, with buyers preferring fresh produce coming straight from farms. "Though prices are slightly high now, customers are checking rates at a couple of shops and still buying, especially fresh avarekai," Abdul, a trader, said.

Farmers often cultivate avarekai as an intercrop with ragi and groundnut, and the yield is reported to be better than last year. While unseasonal rain and cold spells earlier caused some crop loss due to flower drop, the present foggy weather has

improved growing conditions and reduced pest attacks, agriculture officials said. With demand peaking from December to the end of January, supplies to Bengaluru markets are expected to rise, which could ease prices in the coming weeks. For now, city kitchens are warming up to the season, with consumers like Sukanya Prakash keeping it simple. "We are making sambar for now due to the price. Once rates drop, we will prepare hitikida bele (deskinned hyacinth beans) and store dried avarekalu to enjoy it all year," she said. — BMB

Waste mountain grows as rules fail

CPCB report exposes massive gap between waste output and treatment

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Mounting menace: Single-use plastics overwhelm cities

Despite leading the nation in plastic generation, the State processes barely a fraction, with most refuse dumped as enforcement failures keep banned items circulating openly

Karnataka has once again been identified as the largest generator of plastic waste in the country. The latest report on plastic waste management by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) shows that the State generates 14% of India's total plastic waste. Karnataka is followed by Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh as the highest plastic waste generators. The CPCB has also flagged that while the State is the largest generator, it is among the bottom three States in terms of processing this waste. While the estimated plastic waste generation in Karnataka was a little over 5.28 lakh tonnes per annum during 2021–22, only 18,243 tonnes per annum were processed, leaving a staggering 5.1 lakh tonnes (nearly 97%) to end up in landfills.

Of the total plastic waste processed, nearly 70% is recycled, while the rest is co-processed.

"It is worrying that Karnataka is recycling only around 3% of the total plastic waste generated. We were the first State in the country to impose a complete ban on all kinds of compostable and non-compostable carry bags of all thicknesses. However, poor implementation has led to banned items being freely sold and purchased in markets. The State Pollution Control Board, along with local bodies, should come up with innovative solutions to reduce plastic pollution and strictly enforce the ban," said a city-based solid waste management expert.

Notably, through a notification issued in 2016, the State government banned all kinds of compostable and non-compostable carry bags of all thicknesses, including plastic banners, buntings, carry bags (plastic and compostable), cups, cling films, flex, flags, plates, spoons and sheets made of plastic or thermocol, as well as microbeads, across the State.

This was followed by a nationwide ban on single-use plastic items imposed by the Union environment ministry in July 2022. The CPCB then directed all States, including Karnataka, to strictly enforce a ban on 19 single-use plastic items.

The banned items include earbuds with plastic sticks, balloon sticks, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice cream sticks, thermocol decorations, plastic plates, cups, glasses, cutlery, straws, trays, wrapping films, invitation cards, cigarette packets, PVC banners under 100 microns, and stirrers. The thickness threshold for the ban was later increased to 120 microns.

Violators caught using, selling, manufacturing, distributing, importing or stocking these products were to be penalised.

"All banned items, whether the 19 SUP items notified by the CPCB or those mentioned in the State government's notification, are openly available. More often than not, political parties, through the use of flex banners, overstep the rules, setting a poor example for citizens," the expert said.

The CPCB's report also highlights the presence of unregistered plastic manufacturing and recycling units operating in Karnataka.

Seventh train set to speed up yellow line

Namma Metro's Yellow Line has received its seventh train set, a move expected to significantly reduce passenger waiting times once services begin. The driverless train, which departed from Titagarh on December 10, reached the Hebbagodi depot on Thursday and is slated to enter commercial service in January. At present, only five trains are operating on the 19.15 km-long Yellow Line, resulting in a wait of about 15 minutes between services. Officials said a sixth train is likely to be inducted from December 22, which will bring down the interval to 12–13 minutes, while the addition of the seventh train will further reduce waiting times to around 8–10 minutes. Commercial operations on the Yellow Line began on August 11. Titagarh is yet to supply eight more train sets, all of which are expected to be delivered to Namma Metro by the end of March 2026, paving the way for smoother and more frequent services on the corridor. — BMB

Cabinet clears ₹1,700 cr waste plan

The State Cabinet on Thursday granted administrative approval for a ₹1,714 crore project to manage construction and demolition waste in Bengaluru over the next 15 years. Under the plan, 2,250 tonnes of construction waste generated daily within the Greater Bengaluru Authority limits will be collected, transported and processed through three PPP-model packages of 750-tonne capacity each, for which tenders will be floated. The Cabinet also cleared several other Bengaluru-related projects, including the replacement of pumps at the TK Halli, Harohalli and Tataguni pumping stations under the Cauvery water supply project Phases I and II at a cost of ₹49.30 crore. Approval was also given for the comprehensive operation and maintenance of the 550-MLD water treatment plant under Cauvery Phase IV Stage II at TK Halli for five years at a cost of ₹38.33 crore, and for the construction of an additional building at the Haj Bhavan complex in Thirumenahalli at an estimated cost of ₹16.60 crore. — BMB

₹100 cr junction project stuck in slow lane

Work on the ₹100 crore project to develop 75 major junctions in the city has hit a roadblock, with nearly half the junctions yet to see any activity and progress crawling at most others. Although announced two years ago, construction has begun at only 39 junctions, while work has not started at 37 locations. Even among the 12 junctions under way, completion has not crossed 25 per cent at any site, raising concerns over delays and execution. Official data show uneven progress across zones, with several junctions still awaiting ground-level work despite repeated reviews. A handful of locations have seen better movement, with progress ranging between 40 and 84 per cent. Junctions such as Town Hall, Mayo Hall, Brigade Circle, Ashoka Pillar and Upparpet are close to completion. Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed engineers to inspect pending sites, revise designs if needed, and fast-track execution, with closer monitoring and regular zone-wise reviews to push long-delayed works to completion. — BMB

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Park encroachment

JP Nagar

A public park has been encroached upon in the EWS BDA Layout, JP Nagar 8th Phase, near Jambusavari Dinne.

Illegal parking

KR Puram

Unauthorised fruit vendors' vehicles have been parked for years beneath the cable bridge near the KR Puram railway station, with BBMP and GBA authorities failing to act.

Drain hazard

Yelahanka

At Prestige Monte Carlo, Puttenehalli, Yelahanka, the long-open drain outside the main gate has been closed, but faulty measurements have left a dangerous opening, allowing garbage to be dumped and defeating the very purpose of the work.

Authorities told to consider Pak national's citizenship plea

Noting that petitioner's request for extension of long-term visa had been considered, court held that she cannot be deported on grounds of visa expiry

HIGH COURT

The Karnataka High Court has directed the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) to consider a fresh application to be filed by a Pakistani national seeking Indian citizenship and to pass appropriate orders before the expiry of her long-term visa.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj issued the directions while hearing a petition filed by Nighat Yasmeen, who married Mohammed Younus, a resident of Shivajinagar in Bengaluru, in April 2009. The couple has two children, both of whom are Indian citizens.

The petitioner approached the High Court contending that despite submitting multiple applications for Indian citizenship, her request had not been considered by the authorities. She argued that her case deserved favourable consideration as she is married to an Indian citizen and is the mother of Indian citizens.

It was also submitted on her behalf that following the escalation of the Indo-Pak conflict, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued an order on April 24, 2025, suspending visa services to Pakistani nationals, which further complicated the processing of her application.

Opposing the plea, the government advocate submitted that the petitioner's citizenship application could not be processed as four separate applications had been filed, whereas the verification report could be uploaded only against one application.

The court recorded that the petitioner had submitted an application on the e-FRRO portal on May 16, 2025, and that her request for extension of the long-term visa had been considered and recommended till April 6, 2026.

Observing that only the formal issuance of the long-term visa was pending, Justice Govindaraj held that the petitioner could not be deported or subjected to any action on the ground of visa expiry, as her long-term visa remains valid until April 6, 2026.

The court directed the petitioner to withdraw all pending applications filed since 2021 and submit one comprehensive fresh application. The authorities were instructed to consider and process the fresh application within two weeks of its submission.

Sugar mills allowed to contest cane pricing

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday permitted the South Indian Sugar Mills Association (Karnataka) and individual sugar factory owners to submit a representation to the Sugarcane Control Board regarding the additional sugarcane price recently fixed by the state government.

However, Justice Suraj Govindaraj made it clear that the sugar mills could not backtrack from the price agreed upon during a meeting convened by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, which was attended by farmers as well. Observing that the mills had consented to the revised pricing during the discussions, the court said they could not now resile from the promised rate.

The court allowed the petitioners to submit a separate representation to the state government concerning immediate payments due to sugarcane growers. The mills have been directed to outline the financial difficulties faced by individual factories, seeking a reassessment of the increase.

It further directed the state government to decide on the representation within three weeks of its receipt. The matter has been listed for hearing in the first week of February. —BMB

Woman alleges misbehaviour while filing complaint

A woman who approached the Women's Police Station, Shivajinagar, to lodge a complaint of dowry harassment has alleged that police officials spoke to her rudely and failed to handle her grievance sensitively. She has now submitted a written complaint to senior police officials and Human Rights Commission seeking action against the erring officials and a proper registration of her dowry harassment case. —BMB

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Woman allegedly molested by unidentified assailant

A 28-year-old woman doctor in Bengaluru was allegedly molested by an unknown person in AGB Layout in the early hours of December 17, while she was on her way back to her PG accommodation from her medical college.

According to the complaint, when the woman was walking towards the PG, an unknown person arrived on a two-wheeler and stopped near her. The rider reportedly asked the complainant about the location of a nearby bus stand.

The complainant stated that soon after engaging in conversation, the accused got off the scooter and began behaving in an inappropriate manner. The person allegedly touched the complainant without consent, causing distress. Startled by the sudden act, the complainant screamed for help, following which the accused immediately fled the spot.

Based on the complaint, the Soladevanahalli police have registered a case of sexual harassment against the unidentified person and have launched an investigation. CCTV footage from the surrounding area is being examined to trace the accused and identify the scooter. Police have appealed to the public to share any information that could help. — BMB

Surprise check yields banned items within B'luru prison

A surprise inspection by the Karnataka Prisons and Correctional Services Department at the Bangalore Central Jail resulted in the seizure of 22 mobile phones, 25 SIM cards, seven chargers and two earphones, all prohibited inside the prison, following a series of high-intensity search operations conducted over the past 36 hours.

Following the seizure, an FIR was registered at the Parappana Agrahara Police Station against those involved in transporting the prohibited items into the prison, individuals who assisted in the act, and inmates who were found using them.

The case has been booked under Section 42 and other relevant provisions of the Karnataka Prisons (Amendment) Act, 2022. Police officials said appropriate legal and departmental action has been initiated against the offenders.Meanwhile, Director General of Police (Prisons and Correctional Services), Karnataka, Alok Kumar, IPS, commended the vigilance and commitment of the officers and staff involved in the operation. He honoured the team with a cash reward, acknowledging their role in strengthening prison security and curbing illegal activities within the jail. — BMB

GUJARAT ART & CRAFTS UTSAV
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Bengaluru earns 117% more than Karnataka's per capita average

With earnings more than double the state average, Bengaluru Urban alone reshapes states income, map exposing deep regional economic divides

Sridhar.Vivan
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Bengaluru Urban is not just Karnataka's richest district on paper, it is in a different league altogether. With a per capita income of Rs 7.39 lakh in 2023–24, Bengaluru earns about 117 per cent more than the State average of Rs 3.40 lakh. In simple terms, the average Bengalurean earns more than double what the average Kannadiga does. Even compared to Dakshina Kannada, the second richest district, Bengaluru's per capita income is higher by around 33 per cent, highlighting the sheer scale of the city's economic dominance.

Data presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah shows that only a handful of districts manage to cross the Rs 5 lakh per capita income mark. Udupi and Dakshina Kannada come closest, but Bengaluru Urban continues to stay comfortably ahead. Chikkamagaluru and Bengaluru Rural follow, with per capita incomes that are 40 to 45 per cent lower than Bengaluru Urban. Economists point out that Bengaluru Urban alone significantly pulls up the State's average, and without it Karnataka's overall per capita income would fall sharply.

The contrast is even starker at the lower end of the table. Kalaburagi, with a per capita income of Rs 1.44 lakh, is nearly 80 per cent behind Bengaluru Urban. Districts such as Yadgir and Raichur record similar figures, underscoring deep regional disparities.

The city's economic dominance underscores structural imbalances, as weaker regions struggle with lower productivity and limited development opportunities

Assembly data highlights how industrial concentration, services growth and dairy strength power Bengaluru's dominance, while weaker economic activity keeps several North Karnataka districts trapped in low-income cycles

Replying to a debate in the Assembly on Friday, Siddaramaiah said district-wise data for 2023–24 revealed persistent inequalities linked to uneven industrial and commercial activity. He noted that weak dairy development was a major factor behind low incomes in Kalyana Karnataka. While the Bengaluru Milk Union collects about 17.13 lakh litres of milk daily, the Kalaburagi Milk Union, covering Bidar, Kalaburagi and Yadgir, collects just 67,000 litres.

Although 42 per cent of Karnataka's population lives in 14 North Karnataka districts, their per capita daily milk availability is only 3.52 litres, compared with 22.4 litres in South Karnataka and coastal regions. The government, he said, has prioritised dairy development in Kalyana Karnataka in the current Budget, stressing that sustained regional development and social justice are essential to bridge these gaps.

MP seeks one nation sandalwood law

Bengaluru Rural MP and former Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research director Prof Dr CN Manjunath has urged the Union government to formulate a Uniform National Sandalwood Policy and establish a Sandalwood Board of India to address long-standing challenges faced by sandalwood growers across the country.

In a memorandum dated December 7, 2025, addressed to Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, Manjunath pointed out that sandalwood cultivation, harvesting, transport and trade are currently governed by different laws in each state. This fragmented regulatory framework, he said, has led to confusion, procedural hurdles, farmer losses and opportunities for illegal trade. Restrictions on inter-state movement of legally grown sandalwood, weak enforcement mechanisms and revenue losses to farmers, industry and governments were among the key concerns highlighted.

"Sandalwood is not merely a commercial crop; it is a strategic national resource with immense cultural, medicinal and export value," Manjunath said, adding that the absence of a single national policy hurts genuine growers while encouraging illegal markets.

Referring to the recommendations of the Sandalwood Development Committee constituted under NITI Aayog, he called for the implementation of a 'One Nation, One Sandalwood Law'. He proposed that sandalwood cultivated on private land be declared an agricultural or horticultural produce, granting cultivators full ownership and uniform rights across states.

Among his key proposals were the creation of a National Sandalwood Exchange to enable farmers to sell directly to buyers, reducing dependence on monopolised procurement systems, and the introduction of a Minimum Support Price (MSP) with an annually updated national index to ensure fair and predictable returns.

Manjunath also emphasised the need for robust anti-theft measures, including centralised plantation registration, security support such as fencing and CCTV, fast-track courts for sandalwood theft cases, and a National Digital Sandalwood Register to enable transparent licensing, insurance and approvals.

To address the crop's long gestation period, he suggested institutional credit through NABARD and a Sandalwood Plant Insurance Scheme covering theft, fire, pests and natural calamities.

A major recommendation was the creation of an exclusive Sandalwood Board of India under the Ministry of Commerce, on the lines of the Coffee and Spice Boards. Citing Karnataka's contribution of nearly 65% of India's sandalwood and the presence of institutions such as ICFRE–IWST, he proposed Bengaluru as the board's headquarters, urging the Centre to expedite the proposal to strengthen India's global leadership in sandalwood. **–BMB**

Non-compliance more common among young riders

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

initiatives, they acknowledge that enforcement alone cannot change commuter habits. Helmet awareness drives are conducted across all jurisdictions. "Whenever we spot riders not wearing proper helmets, we stop them and educate them on the importance of wearing a full, certified helmet. Caps or half-helmets offer no real protection. Helmets safeguard the head. Safety must come first, and every life matters. Even delivery partners are often seen riding without helmets, so awareness efforts are carried out daily," said a traffic official.

Traffic police point out that many riders wear helmets only superficially. "Some riders carry helmets on the handle, wear them halfway, or keep them unbuckled and wear it just to avoid fines. This false compliance makes enforcement challenging and exposes riders to life-threatening injuries," said a traffic police official.

Experts echo these concerns. Neurosurgeon Dr. Sharan Srinivasan of Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain Hospital said, "Medically, the difference is stark. Riders without proper helmets suffer far more severe traumatic brain injuries, skull and facial fractures, intracranial bleeding, coma, death, or lifelong cognitive and behavioural disability. A correctly worn, certified, well-fitted, and tightly buckled helmet significantly reduces impact forces, fractures, and fatal brain injury."

Dr. Srinivasan emphasises that helmets are not just a fashion statement or a way to avoid police fines. "The face is part of the head. Full-coverage helmets protect vital sense organs, the airway, and reduce secondary brain injury. Helmets are medical devices meant to safeguard the most precious organ, the human brain."

Traffic authorities also highlight that non-compliance is more common among young riders and pillion passengers, who underestimate the severity of head injuries. "Even small falls or collisions can lead to life-altering consequences if helmets are not worn properly," said officials.

Dhaval Shukla, Professor of Neurosurgery, NIMHANS, concurred. "A helmet isn't just gear. It's the barrier between a survivable crash and lifelong devastation, as my emergency room experiences confirm," he said.

Already this year, the city has recorded 4,098 road accidents between January to October with 700 fatalities and 3,612 injuries.

Just 26 good air days this year as compared to 63 in 2024

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Winter leads to an increase in air pollution due to atmospheric inversion, which means that cold air present in the lower atmosphere does not allow pollutants to escape. However, in case of rainfall, raindrops wash down these pollutants, considerably improving the air quality. November this year, in Bengaluru, has witnessed below-average rainfall, which might have led to fewer good air days," said a city-based air quality expert.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department in Bengaluru, the city recorded a 47 percent deficiency in the northeast monsoon during October and November this year.

While rain can be one reason behind pollution, increasing vehicular traffic, unpaved and damaged roads, and garbage burning are some other reasons that lead to higher air pollution in the city, experts say.

"Bengaluru, on average, is adding more than 50,000 vehicles on its roads. With an increase in the number of vehicles, the average speed decreases, causing higher emissions of PM2.5. Damaged, pothole-ridden roads and unpaved sidewalks contribute immensely to suspended dust particles, and thus, PM10 concentration in the air goes up. These factors add to pollution levels," said an expert.

The city also has major infrastructure projects under various stages of development, including metro construction, various flyovers, which worsen air quality.

Policy push, GCC-led office demand drives India's resilience

Office leasing emerged as the strongest segment, with absorption in the first nine months of 2025 rising 15 per cent year-on-year

India's real estate sector delivered a resilient performance in 2025 despite global uncertainty, supported by policy reforms, sustained infrastructure spending and rising incomes, said Shrinivas Rao, CEO of Vestian.

He said the sector's stability was reflected in strong office absorption, steady warehousing activity and renewed investment flows, underscoring long-term growth prospects and a growing contribution to the economy.

The Union Budget 2025–26 reinforced this momentum through higher capital expenditure of Rs 50.65 lakh crore, tax reforms that boosted disposable incomes, Rs 15,000 crore under SWAMIH Fund II to complete stressed housing projects, and the launch of the Rs 1 lakh crore Urban Challenge Fund, alongside initiatives such as the National Geospatial Mission and a framework to promote Global Capability Centres in Tier II cities.

Office leasing emerged as the strongest segment, with absorption in the first nine months of 2025 rising 15 per cent year-on-year and annual demand projected at a record 75 million sq ft, driven largely by GCCs, which accounted for 42 per cent of leasing.

Retail leasing stayed robust as demand exceeded supply, while warehousing absorption stood at 28.1 million sq ft on the back of stable long-term fundamentals.

Housing volumes softened amid affordability pressures and higher borrowing costs, but premium and luxury segments supported overall sales values.

Institutional investments reached USD 4.37 billion in the first nine months, led by commercial assets, with domestic capital sustaining market confidence and total inflows expected to cross USD 6 billion by year-end. **BMB**

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BMICAPA green signal to layouts set to boost corridor realty: DKS

The Bangalore–Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority's decision to clear layout plan proposals strictly as per rules is expected to boost real estate growth along the BMIC corridor, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said. He noted that streamlined approvals would resolve long-pending farmer issues while unlocking regulated development, spurring housing and allied realty activity. Shivakumar said applications for land conversion, layout approvals and change of land use are being accepted online through deputy commissioners' offices and processed within stipulated timelines after technical scrutiny.

He clarified that BMICAPA remains in force, ensuring planned growth under the Karnataka government–NICE framework agreement, while safeguarding infrastructure planning norms and preventing unregulated, ad hoc development across the corridor region, benefiting investors, homebuyers, farmers and supporting sustainable urban expansion objectives. **BMB**

Resort-style managed farmland near Bengaluru–Mysuru corridor attracts urban investors rapidly

Farmland projects that combine commercial cultivation with resort-style living are witnessing a surge in demand, emerging as one of the most attractive investment options on the outskirts of Bengaluru and Mysuru.

Buyers are increasingly drawn to managed farmland developments that allow the cultivation of high-value trees such as sandalwood, mahogany and teak, along with fruits, vegetables and spices, while also offering the option to own well-equipped farmhouses set amid lush green surroundings.

Compared to apartments and conventional residential plots, farmland with farmhouse amenities is gaining preference among urban buyers seeking both financial returns and lifestyle value.

Many Bengalureans are converting managed farmland into weekend retreats—peaceful green spaces where they can unwind, reconnect with nature and simultaneously earn steady income. The appeal lies in the dual advantage: long-term capital appreciation through land ownership and recurring returns from commercial crops or farmhouse rentals.

The Mysuru–Bengaluru highway has emerged as a key hotspot for such investments, further strengthened by the proposed Film City project near Mysuru.

Developers note that farmland located close to the Film City site holds strong long-term potential, with several farmhouses already constructed in the vicinity.

Buyers interested solely in agricultural land are offered saplings of sandalwood, teak, mahogany or fruit-bearing trees as part of the investment package

Buyers interested solely in agricultural land are offered saplings of sandalwood, teak, mahogany or fruit-bearing trees as part of the investment package. Whether investors opt for timber plantations or mixed fruit orchards, developers typically provide end-to-end management, including cultivation, maintenance and security, making the process hassle-free.

Infrastructure growth is adding further momentum. Improved road networks, including the upcoming Peripheral Ring Road around Mysuru, have significantly enhanced connectivity, reducing travel time to nearly 15 minutes from the city.

Under the New Mysuru development plan, surrounding areas are expected to be integrated into the urban framework, driving appreciation in land values.

With rising interest from buyers across Bengaluru, Mysuru and other major cities, farmland investments focused on high-value crops and resort-style living are fast emerging as safe, high-return assets that blend income generation with serene living. **BMB**

India's retail boom attracts global investment surge

India's retail real estate market is poised for a major upswing, with ANAROCK Research & Advisory projecting over USD 3.5 billion in investments over the next three years, even as Western malls struggle with closures and falling footfalls.

While the US has recorded nearly 1,200 net store closures since 2020 despite fresh openings, India's organised retail sector continues to expand, supported by rising incomes, rapid urbanisation and a young, consumption-driven population.

Grade-A malls are witnessing exceptionally strong demand, with occupancy levels ranging between 95% and 100% and long waiting lists for premium retail zones. Per capita retail stock remains severely undersupplied at just 4–6 sq. ft. in Tier I cities and only 0.6 sq. ft. of Grade-A mall space, compared to 23 sq. ft. in the US and over 6 sq. ft. in China.

Between 2021 and September 2025, more than 88 foreign brands entered India, with many more actively scouting locations.

Indian malls increasingly function as lifestyle destinations, integrating shopping, dining, entertainment and social experiences.

Daily footfalls of 20,000–40,000 underscore their resilience against e-commerce. With IRRs of 14–18%, nearly double Western yields, India's retail assets stand out as a rare global investment hotspot.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

NATURE'S VALENTINE TALE Our reader shares a striking image of a male green bee-eater in action at Marathahalli, Bengaluru, expertly catching a dragonfly mid-air. After breaking its exoskeleton with deft tosses and thrashes on a perch, the bird offers the prized catch to his mate—a perfect Valentine's story of courtship and care in the wild. The picture was clicked by BM reader **Soumya Kuber**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

DID YOU KNOW?

Archaeologists in Rome are turning to laser technology to restore one of the city's most iconic ancient monuments—the Column of Marcus Aurelius—by carefully stripping away decades of accumulated grime. In the most extensive use of laser cleaning ever undertaken in Italy, conservators are removing layers of pollution from the 1,840-year-old column, revealing the luminous white Carrara marble beneath. Hand-held lasers emit precise, flickering beams that heat and lift blackened deposits without damaging the stone. Project lead architect Marta Baumgartner likens the process to cosmetic medical procedures, noting that the technique has produced excellent results and is being applied across the entire external frieze. Carved around AD 180, the spiral frieze wraps 23 times around the column, rising nearly 40 metres and depicting more than 2,000 figures—gods, soldiers, animals and Emperor Aurelius himself. The reliefs vividly portray the brutality of war, offering scholars invaluable insight into Roman military history. Funded by 2 million euros from European Union recovery grants, the restoration began in March and will conclude early next year. Following earlier restorations in the 16th century and 1980s, the monument will now be closely monitored to prevent future deterioration.

— Reuters

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Deepanjali Nagar–NICE link set to cut Mysuru Road commute time

Long-delayed connector from Deepanjali Nagar to NICE Road promises faster access, easing congestion and saving daily commuters 15–20 minutes soon

The NICE company is preparing to open the new 1.5 half kilometre stretch near the Deepanjali Nagar junction on Mysuru Road for public use. The link connects the Deepanjali Nagar junction to the NICE Road close to Hosakerehalli PES College. The project was planned many years ago but faced delays due to land disputes and slow acquisition processes. With these issues now resolved and most of the work completed, the company is ready to make the road operational soon.

Motorists travelling from Mysuru Road towards Kengeri, Electronic City, Bannerghatta and other parts of the city are expected to save 15 to 20 minutes once the road opens. Until now, travellers had to enter the NICE Road through the Nayandahalli Ring Road, often getting stuck in long traffic queues stretching up to the Nayandahalli and Veerabhadranagar signals. Residents say this regularly led to wasted time and higher fuel consumption.

Workers put final layers on the new four-lane connector, expected to ease pressure on Nayandahalli and surrounding congested junctions soon

With the new stretch in place, drivers can reach the NICE toll gate in just a couple of minutes, avoiding chronic congestion. The connection is expected to ease pressure on several busy junctions and offer smoother access for commuters coming from Vijayanagar, Bapuji Nagar, Byatarayanapura, Majestic and KR Market. Many residents who have been waiting for this link describe it as a major relief.

Prabhakar, a long-time resident of the area, said the road would significantly change mobility in this part of the city. "Earlier, we had no option but to spend a long time crawling through traffic before reaching the NICE Road. Now we can bypass all that and get onto the highway almost immediately," he said.

Another resident, Meena, said the new link would particularly benefit daily commuters. "People travelling to Electronic City or Bannerghatta for work will save time every single day. It should also reduce pressure on smaller internal roads that were never meant to handle such heavy traffic," she explained.

Most of the construction work between Deepanjali Nagar and the NICE toll gate has been completed. The only pending work is near Bhagawan Jain Hospital, where a large rock is being removed before the final surface layer is laid. Once this is done, the four-lane road is expected to be ready for public use within a month.

Some residents, however, have expressed concern about the large traffic circle constructed at the junction, which has slightly narrowed the carriageway. They fear that heavy vehicles arriving in clusters during peak hours could slow movement. Despite this, locals feel the overall benefits outweigh the potential drawbacks.

NICE officials confirmed that the connecting road near the college will also open within the same timeframe, enabling quicker access to Challaghatta and the Mysuru Expressway, and improving traffic flow along the Bengaluru–Mysuru corridor. — BMB

BUST FAKE NEWS WITH BANGALORE MIRROR

Write to us at mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

8th Pay Commission factcheck: Will pensioners lose DA, other benefits?

The Claim: A viral message claims the Finance Act 2025 has withdrawn DA hikes, future Pay Commission revisions and pension parity for retired government employees, overriding Supreme Court rulings and impacting lakhs of pensioners through a major policy shift linked to the proposed 8th Pay Commission.
Fact: The PIB Fact Check has clarified that Finance Act 2025 makes no such changes. DA hikes and Pay Commission-linked benefits for pensioners continue unchanged. The confusion arose from a limited CCS Pension Rule 37 amendment applicable only to PSU-absorbed employees dismissed for misconduct

A message circulating on WhatsApp and social media has caused anxiety among retired government employees, claiming that the Finance Act 2025 has withdrawn post-retirement benefits such as Dearness Allowance (DA) hikes and future Pay Commission revisions, including those linked to the proposed 8th Pay Commission. The message also suggests that lakhs of pensioners will be affected by a major policy shift.

Are these claims true?

The Press Information Bureau (PIB) Fact Check unit has categorically clarified that no such provision exists in the Finance Act 2025. Retired government employees will continue to receive DA hikes and Pay Commission-linked benefits, just as they have in the past. There has been no blanket withdrawal of pensionary benefits for retirees.

What is the source of the confusion?

The viral message appears to misinterpret an amendment related to Rule 37 of the CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021. This rule deals specifically with government employees who are absorbed into Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). The CCS pension amendment states that if such an absorbed PSU employee is dismissed for proven misconduct, certain retirement benefits may be forfeited.

Is there a change in DA hikes or benefits under the Pay Commission?

Contrary to claims made in the viral message, the government has not withdrawn DA hikes for pensioners, nor has it announced that retired employees will be excluded from future benefits under the Pay Commission. Whenever Pay Commissions are implemented, their recommendations apply to both serving employees and pensioners, subject to government approval.

Does the Finance Act override Supreme Court rulings on pension?

The message also claims that the Finance Act 2025 overrides long-standing Supreme Court judgments on pension parity, including rulings that ensure equal treatment of pensioners regardless of their retirement date. This assertion is incorrect. There has been no legislative move to nullify these judgments, and pension-related legal protections remain unchanged.

Fake viral pension message

Finance Act 2025; DA/DR hike not stopped; Pay Commission benefits continue; 8th Pay Commission; CCS (Pension) Rules 2021; Rule 37 amendment; PSU-absorbed employees; misconduct-based forfeiture.

— ET Online

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I,PANKAJKUMAR.K, R/o. No-993/1,2nd cross,9th main,srinivasnagar,BSK 1st stage,B'luru 560050 have changed my name to Pankaj Prajapati for all purposes.

I, Rini George Mathew R/o.Flat 102,Tower 22,L&T Raintree Boulevard Apts,Indra Nagar, Byatarayanapura,B'luru 560092 have changed my name to Rini Mathew for all purposes.

I, Padma, w/o Nagaraju Soorappa, R/o #135 Shivanagar Jigani Anekal Taluk Bengaluru-560105 have changed my name to Padma Nagaraju for all Purposes.

I, Rahiyana Ashraf, R/O Concorde Techturf, Shikaripalya, Electronic City, Bangalore – 560100, have changed my name to Rahiya Aboo

I V SHASHIREKHA R/o #144, 16th main rd, Bsk first stage, second block, Bangalore-560050 have changed my name to V R SHASHIREKHA.

I, Sreenivas Abhinay, R/o A-1501, Cedar, Greenage Apartment, Bengaluru-560068, have changed my name to Srinivas Abhinay Gandla and shall hereafter be known as Srinivas Abhinay Gandla.

I, Shilpa Naidu Dharnappa, D/o Dharnappa R, R/o #366/2 CT Bed Extension 7th Cross Banashankari 2nd Stage B'luru-560070 have Changed my name to Shilpa Naidu for all Purposes.

I, SOMASHEKARA SHESHADRISHETTY, Residing at No 207, Srinivas Nilaya, 7th Cross, 2nd Block, Vishwapriya Layout, Bangalore-560068, Have changed my name to SOMASHEKAR S, vide affidavit dtd 19/12/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, Anita Ambrose Isaacs w/o Samson David, R/o Villa No-129 Phase-1 Varthur Road Adarsh Palm Meadows Ramagondanahalli Whitefield B'luru-560066 have changed my name to Anita David for all Purposes.

I, Rithul Ranthish S/o Renjeesh Polyath Kumaran R/o No 24, Rithul Bhavan, Sizzle May Flower, Hancharahalli, Bengaluru - 560049. Have Changed My Name to Rithul Renjeesh for All Purposes.

I, Swarna Eshwari Madurai R/o 2764, 17th cross, 18th B main, Near saraswathi hospital, Banashankari 2nd stage Bengaluru 560070 have changed my name to Swarna Eshwari. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, Haragadde Nanjappa Bhagyalakshmi, w/o Nataraja K S, R/o #230 Haragadde Jigani Hobli Anekal Taluk Bengaluru-560105 have changed my name to Haragadde Nanjappa Bhagya for all Purposes.

I Rajalakshmi Renugopal D/O Renugopal resident at D NO 69/B Jaiswal Mansion T C Palya Main Road, R K M Layout Maragondanahalli Bengaluru Pin 560036 Karnataka India. Have change of my Name to Divya Susan for all future purposes

I, MOHAMMED NEMAN NISAR, Residing at No 31, Flat No 401, 2nd Cross, Vinayaka Nagara, Near BBMP Office, Kudlu, Bangalore-560068, Have changed my name to MOHAMMED NOUMAN NISAR, vide affidavit dated 19/12/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, Santhosh Sindhe Subramanya, S/o Subramanya Rao & Meera Bai, R/o #109 Bhavani Nilaya 2nd Cross Yellappa garden Near BWSSB Water Tank Banagirinagar BSK 3rd stage, B'luru-560085 have Changed my name to Santhosh Subramanya Sindhe for all Purposes.

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DEC: 21, 22**, 24, 25**, 26, 27, 28* JAN: 16, 21, 26

ANDHRA PRADESH WITH STATUE OF EQUALITY 10/6* DAYS
DEC: 22, 25, 28* JAN: 1, 4*, 11, 11*, 18*, 21, 25*

SHIRDI NASIK/PANCHA JYOTHIRLINGA* 7* DAYS
DEC: 28, JAN: 4, 5*, 11, 12*, 18, 19*, 25, 26*

KERALA SPECIAL/ NAVAGRAHA DARSHAN* 7/4* DAYS
DEC: 21, 28, 29* JAN: 1, 5*, 11, 12* 18, 19*, 25, 26*

SOUTH INDIA 7/10* DAYS EX: MANGALORE DEC: 22, 22* JAN: 16*, 19, 26, 26*

SOUTH INDIA 9/11* DAYS EX: HUBBALLI JAN: 16*, 20, 27* 30

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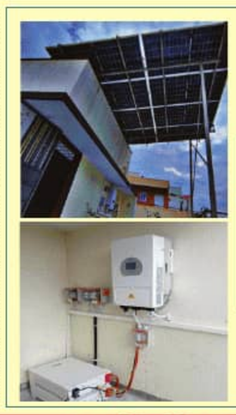
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Rally cry against govt's plan to merge KPS schools

Students' association says move could jeopardise access to education for several students from economically weak or minority backgrounds, leading to higher chances of dropouts

INFOCUS
CLASSROOM CRISIS

The All India Students' Association (AISA) organised a protest at Mysuru Bank Circle, against the state government's proposal to merge 25,683 government schools under the Karnataka Public School (KPS) project, which would result in the closure of the schools.

Sharanya, an AISA member, said that the proposal to merge schools within a 1–5 km radius, branding them as 'Magnet Schools', will severely restrict access to education for lakhs of students, particularly from working class, rural, Dalit, Adivasi, and minority backgrounds. "The criteria of low enrolment have been left undefined deliberately, putting thousands of neighbourhood schools at risk of closure," she said.

Jowhar, another AISA member, pointed out that the government's claim of providing buses to transport students to distant KPS institutions is unrealistic and financially unsustainable. "Such a move will inevitably lead to higher dropout rates, increased transportation burdens on families, and further push students towards private schools, thereby undermining public education," he said.

All India Students' Association members gathered to oppose govt's plans to merge 25,683 schools under KPS project

Adiba, another member of the Association, said that the merger and closure of schools are part of NEP, which is being used as a tool to privatise education, making it inaccessible for students from marginalised communities. "Despite the Congress government coming to power opposing NEP (National Education Policy), instead of implementing a proper SEP (State Education Policy), which can give quality education to all as an alternative to NEP, it is bringing NEP through the backdoor," she opined.

Protesters urge government to withdraw school merger proposal and focus on strengthening public schools

Another AISA member, Harish, highlighted that the proposal violates the Right to Education (RTE) Act, which mandates that government schools must be located within 1 km for Classes 1–5 and 3 km for Classes 6–8. He also criticised the reliance on international finance for the expansion of the KPS project, citing the Rs 2,000 crore loan from the Asian Development Bank, which was approved in 2025. "Such funding comes with conditions that promote privatisation and corporatisation of public education through private contractors and public–private partnerships," he said.

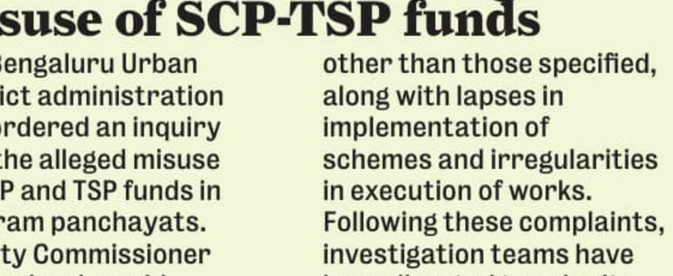
Protesters demanded that the government immediately withdraw the school merger proposal and instead strengthen government schools by increasing public investment, appointing adequate permanent teachers, and ensuring neighbourhood access to quality education.

AISA Karnataka has been carrying out a campaign against the proposed school mergers. As part of this campaign, AISA members distributed pamphlets outside schools and colleges in Bengaluru to expose the consequences of the policy. To broaden public participation and build pressure on the government, AISA has also launched an online petition on Change.org, demanding the immediate withdrawal of the school merger proposal, which has received widespread support from students, parents, teachers, and concerned citizens. —BMB

SOCIALTATTLE

What's Tweeting
A Bengaluru resident highlighted that while cities like New York are expanding street vendor permits and creating dedicated offices, Bengaluru is lagging, with vendors undercounted, ID cards delayed, and commissioners waiting for instructions, urging authorities to streamline support for street entrepreneurs.

Hello @GBAChiefComm , New York is expanding street vendor permits, while we are under counting vendors and failing to give ID cards. They are also having a separate office for vendors while our commissioners await instructions from you.
@lekhaadavi @clifroz
Street Vendor Project @Vendo... · 11h
STREET VENDORS MADE HISTORY!!!
Today @NYCCouncil passed the Street Vendor Reform Package, expanding licensing and creating an Office of Street Vendor Services — changing the lives of tens of thousands of street vendors, their families & our neighborhoods. VENDOR POWER!!!
STREET VENDORS


Shivaranjini M R Shivanna @Shi... · 3h
This is outside Mysore Road Satellite Bus Stand , where Mysuru busses exit.
@BlrCityPolice @blrcitytraffic Do u care to handle this?? There is a no Parking sign!
People were also standing against the entry point!
Politicians have no guts to handle these. Do u dare and care?

That went viral
At Mysore Road Satellite Bus Stand, buses exit into a no-parking zone, yet vehicles and people block the entry. Citizens question @BlrCityPolice and @blrcitytraffic: Why is this chaos ignored? Officials and politicians must act before safety turns critical."

Bangalore Mirror tagged
@Bangalore Mirror was tagged after writing of the SPEEFEE campaign. @bengalurupost said, "We look forward to collaborating with all stakeholders to build civic sense, raise awareness, and drive meaningful change in Bengaluru's public spaces."

Bengaluru Post @bengalurup... · 2h
Thanks @BangaloreMirror @BPac ! We look forward to collaborating with all stakeholders to transform #Bengaluru by building better civic sense and spreading awareness through conversations.
Our #SPEEFEE campaign aims to drive change in public spaces and make an impact on Show more
B.PAC - Bangalore Political... · 2h
Thank you Bangalore Mirror @BangaloreMirror for covering the SPEEFEE campaign and spotlighting the urgent need for impactful conversations around public space hygiene and c... Show more

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INBRIEF

Horse movement curbed following glanders scare

The Bengaluru Urban district administration has imposed restrictions on the movement of horses, donkeys and mules within a 2 km radius of the Bangalore Turf Club after glanders, a highly contagious disease, was detected among horses housed at the racecourse.
Deputy Commissioner G Jagadeesha said the Turf Club has been declared a glanders-affected zone under infectious disease control laws, and the ban applies to movement of equine animals for all purposes, including recreation, processions and ceremonies, as a precautionary measure.
Officials said glanders is a serious infectious disease that has no cure in horses and can also spread to humans through close contact, prompting strict containment steps.
The Animal Husbandry Department and Turf Club authorities have been directed to enforce control measures, sanitise affected areas and closely monitor both animals and human exposure. While no immediate risk to the public has been reported, heightened surveillance is in place. Meanwhile, officials confirmed that horse racing activities at the Bangalore Turf Club are continuing as scheduled, with safety protocols being followed. BMB

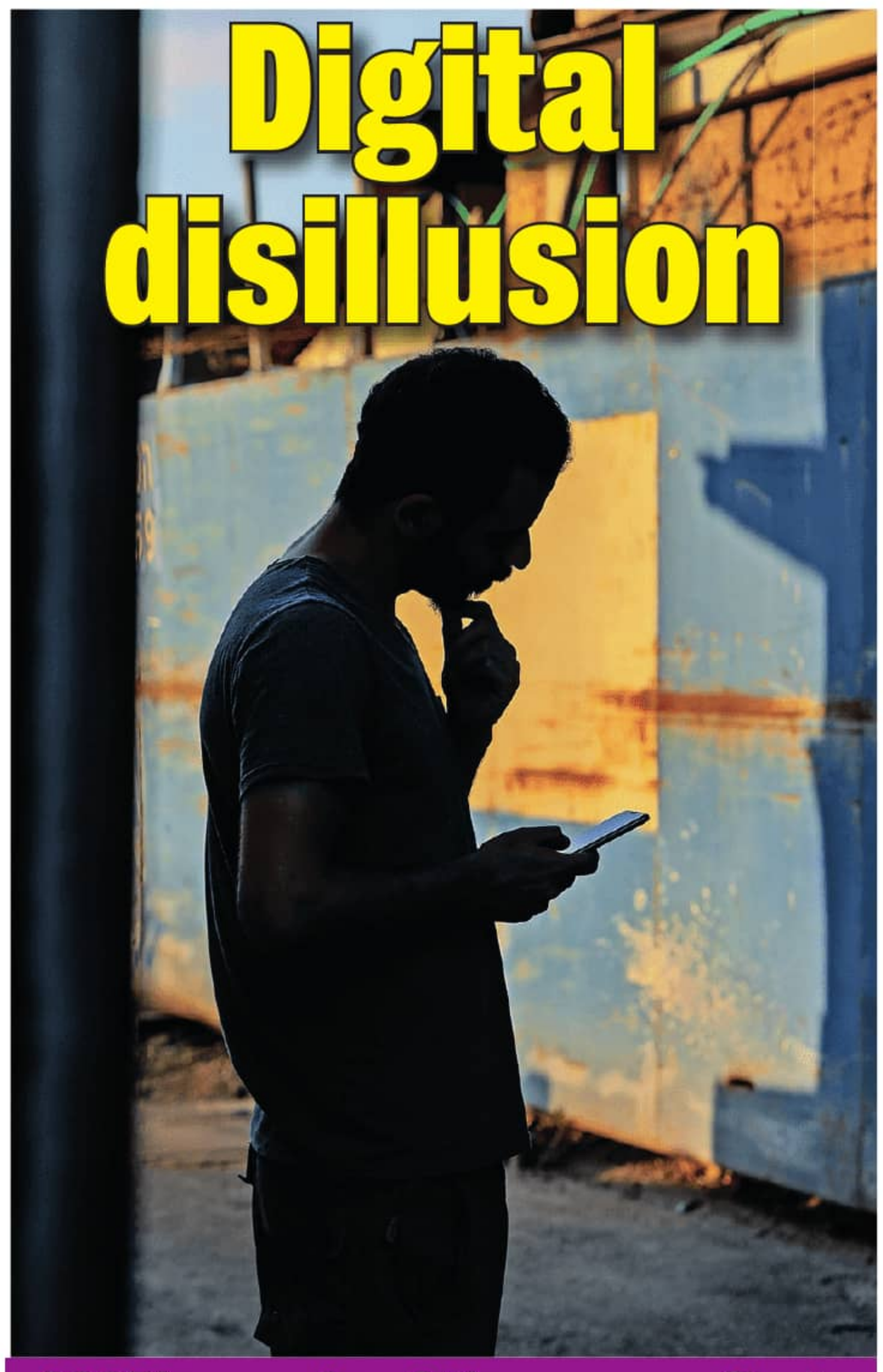
Probe ordered into alleged misuse of SCP-TSP funds

The Bengaluru Urban district administration has ordered an inquiry into the alleged misuse of SCP and TSP funds in six gram panchayats.
Deputy Commissioner G Jagadeesha said complaints had been received about funds meant for the welfare of Scheduled Castes being diverted for purposes other than those specified, along with lapses in implementation of schemes and irregularities in execution of works.
Following these complaints, investigation teams have been directed to submit detailed reports. "If any irregularities are found after the inquiry, strict disciplinary action will be initiated," the DC said. BMB

New mobile health units to strengthen remote healthcare

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurated the 'Arogya Setu' Mobile Health Units at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha, aiming to provide quality healthcare services to citizens in remote and difficult-to-reach areas.
Speaking at the event, Health Minister Dinesh Gundurao said the initiative will bring healthcare directly to people's doorsteps, targeting inaccessible and hilly regions. A total of 81 mobile health units have been launched, including 49 under the National Health Mission and 32 funded by the state government for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe constituencies.
BMB

Digital disillusion



2025's words of the year reflect a year of nihilism in our online interactions

Which terms best represent 2025? Every year, editors for publications ranging from the Oxford English Dictionary to the Macquarie Dictionary of Australian English select a "word of the year."

Sometimes these terms are thematically related, particularly in the wake of world-altering events. "Pandemic," "lockdown" and "coronavirus," for example, were among the words chosen in 2020. At other times, they are a potpourri of various cultural trends, as with 2022's "goblin mode," "permacrisis" and "gaslighting."

This year's slate largely centers on digital life. But rather than reflecting the unbridled optimism about the internet of the early aughts – when words like "w00t," "blog," "tweet" and even "face with tears of joy" emoji (??) were chosen – this year's selections reflect a growing unease over how the internet has become a hotbed of artifice, manipulation and fake relationships.

Seeing isn't believing

A committee representing the Macquarie Dictionary of Australian English settled on "AI slop" for their word of the year.

Macquarie defines the term, which was popularised in 2024 by British programmer Simon Willison and tech journalist Casey Newton, as "low-quality content created by generative AI, often containing errors, and not requested by the user."

AI slop – which can range from a saccharine image of a young girl clinging to her little dog to career advice on LinkedIn – often goes viral, as gullible social media users share these computer-generated videos, text and graphics with others.

Images have been manipulated or altered since the dawn of photography. The technique was then improved, with an assist from AI, to create "deepfakes," which allows existing images to be turned into video clips in surreal ways. Yes, you can now watch Hitler teaming up with Stalin to sing a 1970s hit by The Buggles. What makes AI slop different is that images or video can be created out of whole cloth by giving a chatbot just a prompt – no matter how bizarre the request or ensuing output.

Meet my new friend

The editors of the Cambridge Dictionary chose "parasocial." They define this as "involving or relating to a connection that someone feels between themselves and a famous person they do not know, a character in a book, film, TV series … or an artificial intelligence."

These asymmetric relationships, according to the dictionary's chief editor, are the result of "the public's fascination with celebrities and their lifestyles," and this interest "continues to reach new heights."

As an example, Cambridge's announcement cited the engagement of singer Taylor Swift and football player Travis Kelce, which led to a spike in online searches for the meaning of the term. Many Swifties reacted with unbridled joy, as if their best friend or sibling had just decided to tie the knot.

But the term isn't a new one: It was coined by sociologists in 1956 to describe "the illusion" of having "a face-to-face relationship" with a performer. However, parasocial relationships can take a bizarre or even ominous turn when the object of one's affections is a chatbot. People are developing true feelings for these AI systems. Young people, in particular, are now turning to generative AI for therapy.

Taking the bait

The Oxford Dictionary's word of the year is "rage bait," which the editors define as "online content deliberately designed to elicit anger or outrage by being frustrating, provocative, or offensive, typically posted in order to increase traffic to or engagement with a particular web page or social media content."

This is only the latest word for forms of emotional manipulation that have plagued the online world since the days of dial-up internet. Related terms include trolling, sealioning and trashposting.

Unlike a hot take – a hasty opinion on a topic that may be poorly reasoned or articulated – rage baiting is intended to be inflammatory. And it can be seen as both a cause and a result of political polarization.

Meaningless meaning

Perhaps the most contentious choice in 2025 was "6-7," chosen by Dictionary.com. In this case, the controversy has to do with the actual meaning of this bit of Gen Alpha slang. The editors of the website describe it as being "meaningless, ubiquitous, and nonsensical."

Although its definition may be slippery, the term itself can be found in the lyrics of the rapper Skrilla, who released the single "Doot Doot (6 7)" in early 2025. It was popularised by 17-year-old basketball standout Taylen Kinney. For his part, Skrilla claimed that he "never put an actual meaning on it, and I still would not want to."

"6-7" is sometimes accompanied by a gesture, as if one were comparing the weight of objects held in both hands.

Throw your hands in the air?

The common element that these words share may be an attitude best described as digital nihilism. As online misinformation, AI-generated text and images, fake news and conspiracy theories abound, it's increasingly difficult to know whom or what to believe or trust. Digital nihilism is, in essence, an acknowledgment of a lack of meaning and certainty in our online interactions.

This year's crop of words might best be summed up by a single emoji: the shrug (??). Throwing one's hands up, in resignation or indifference, captures the anarchy that seems to characterise our digital lives.

Roger J Kreuz, University of Memphis, The Conversation

Google Cloud lands 'largest-ever' deal with Palo Alto Networks

Alphabet's cloud computing unit and cybersecurity company Palo Alto Networks on Friday announced an expanded partnership that one source told Reuters was by far Google Cloud's largest security services deal.

The contract comprises a commitment by Palo Alto to pay a sum "approaching $10 billion" to Google Cloud over several years, according to the person with direct knowledge of the matter.

Executives at both companies declined to comment on the specific figures of the contract. Some of the spending will go into migrating Palo Alto's existing offerings to Google's platform, but a sizable portion will go into adding new services that involve artificial intelligence, Palo Alto president BJ Jenkins told Reuters.

"AI has spawned a tremendous amount of demand for security," said Matt Renner, chief revenue officer for Google Cloud.

But while some business functions like software development have been fundamentally altered by AI, cybersecurity remains in its nascency.

"This is the same as when the cloud began to emerge and there were new security threats that no one had ever imagined," Jenkins said.

Cyberattacks are increasingly being perpetrated by the same generative AI tools that security providers are using to strengthen defenses.

Both Google and Palo Alto have invested heavily into security software as enterprises seek to adopt AI. **—Reuters**

BITS & BYTES

YouTube pause

Google's YouTube was down for thousands of users globally on Friday, according to Downdetector.com.

There were more than 7,600 reports of issues with the streaming platform as of 8.27 am. ET, according to Downdetector, which tracks outages by collating status reports from a number of sources.

Outage reports exceeded 1,300 in Canada as of 8.29 am ET; and more than 3,000 in the UK of 8.30 am ET.

YouTube did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

The actual number of affected users may differ from what's shown on Downdetector because these reports are user-submitted. **–Reuters**

'Verify age for sex toy sales'

A Paris court ordered Shein to implement age verification measures for any adult products sold on its marketplace on Friday and set a 10,000 euro ($11,709) fine for any breach, after uproar over childlike sex dolls for sale on its website. The court rejected the French government's request to suspend Shein's website as a whole for three months, saying it would be "disproportionate", a decision that alleviates some pressure the Chinese online platform has faced.

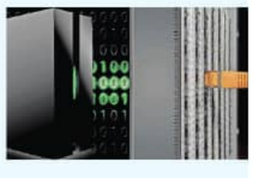
"We welcome this decision. We remain committed to continuously improving our control processes, in close collaboration with the French authorities, with the aim of establishing some of the most stringent standards in the industry, and we have been intensifying these efforts," a Shein spokesperson said in a statement following the ruling.

"Our priority remains protecting French consumers and ensuring compliance with local laws and regulations," they added. **–Reuters**

AI rush makes data centres the big deal

Global data-center dealmaking surged to a record high through November this year, driven by an insatiable demand for computing infrastructure to meet the boom in artificial intelligence usage.

Data from S&P Global Market Intelligence showed that there were more than 100 data center transactions during the period, with the total value sitting just under $61 billion.



Interest in data centers has swelled this year as tech giants and AI hyperscalers have planned billions of dollars in spending to scale up infrastructure. AI-related companies have powered much of the gains in US stocks this year, but concerns over lofty valuations and debt-fueled spending have also sparked worries over how quickly corporates can turn the investments into profits. **–Reuters**

HEALTH TIP: Store items out of sight and your space will instantly feel more breathable and inviting

The easy way to decluttering is to just keep minimal stuff on counters and tables

BangaloreMirror | 13
Saturday, December 20, 2025
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THAT SINKING FEELING

Should I pour this down the sink? (Probably not, and here's why)

Ever been about to pour rancid milk down the sink and thought…"Hmm, maybe I shouldn't…"? What about the tomato passata that's gone off? Or the water you washed the paint in? Or that pungent oil from a tuna can?

Let's consider the wisdom – or not – of putting everyday items down the plughole.

Unfortunately, they can cause problems by clogging or damaging pipes, creating health hazards and polluting the environment. And they add to the load on wastewater treatment plants.

Where it goes

All indoor wastewater is carried through the sewer system. Everything flushed down the toilet or drained from the kitchen sink, bathtub, or shower connects to the same pipes within our home.

From there, the water flows into the municipal sewer — the large pipes running beneath backyards or streets — and eventually flows to a wastewater treatment plant. Wastewater treatment plants have large aerated tanks full of bacteria that decompose the organic matter in wastewater.

"Chemical oxygen demand" measures how much oxygen is needed to break down organic matter. Every bit of additional matter – from passata to tuna oil – adds to the load. And a higher organic load requires greater aeration and larger tanks, thereby increasing the cost and complexity of operating a wastewater treatment plant.

Spilt milk

Should you pour milk down the sink? Liquid dairy products, or any food item containing fat, oil and grease, including cooking oil, can block sewer pipes. When oil and grease mix with cool water in wastewater pipes, they harden. Then, they can combine with other waste, such as wet wipes, to form a rock-hard blockage known as a "fatberg".

Cleaning such blockages is very expensive. For example, in the nine months up to July 2025, Sydney Water spent AUD 12 million dealing with 11,805 "chokes" in the wastewater system.

Clogged sewers are not just a foul nuisance for the water industry — they are a problem that affects us all. They can trigger the release of raw and untreated sewage into the environment.

Sydney Water suggests people add water to old milk and pour it in moderation on plants, rather than into the sink. Alternatively, milk can be left in its container and put in your rubbish bin.

What about the old and expired sauces, dips and gravy, which often lurk in the fridge at this time of year? These can be composted or runny sauces can be soaked up with newspaper or paper towels and put in the rubbish bin.

Chemicals like bleach or paint

If a cleaning liquid such as bleach is approved to be sold in Australia, use it at the concentration specified on the container. But do not tip concentrated cleaning liquids into the sink.

Pouring your remaining paint or paint-brush cleaning water into the sink is not a good idea. You risk potentially clogging the plumbing system – exposing yourselves to heavy fumes – and pouring flammable liquids down the drain.

We need an alternative. You could use a disposable brush, or – if the paint job lasts multiple days – wrap the brush in plastic and only clean when done with painting. You can soak the small amount of brush water into an old towel and dispose of that in the rubbish bin once the paint has dried.

However, the best way to get rid of potentially hazardous household chemicals such as paint, cleaners, pesticides, motor oil, or cooking oil, is to take them to a Household Chemical Cleanout event.

And there are industries that have funded their own collection schemes, for example, "paintback" drop off centres. Commercial and industrial entities will need proper recycling and treatment processes in place.

Collective problem

We should not put anything down the sink that we would not want in our waterways. Instead of using sinks as disposal points, households should adopt safer alternatives such as composting food waste and taking hazardous substances to approved chemical cleanout events.

The problem is not what one individual does, but what everyone in a city contributes together. Small individual actions, when combined across a city, make a significant difference in protecting plumbing infrastructure, public health, and our creeks and oceans.

(By Faisal Hai, University of Wollongong, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Study assesses how harm, responsibility are linked with feelings of guilt, shame

A study has found that the harm one causes another individual could have a stronger impact on guilt, while one's sense of responsibility for causing the harm might more strongly impact their feelings of shame.

The study, published in the journal eLife, also found that distinct brain regions were involved in guilt and shame-driven compensatory behaviour.

"Extensive studies have documented the psychological processes and neural activities related to our experiences of guilt and shame, but the cognitive antecedents -- or preceding triggers -- of these emotions and the neural mechanisms behind them remain unclear," first author Ruida Zhu, an associate professor at the Department of Psychology, Sun Yat-sen University, China, said.

The researchers devised a 'dots estimation game' to look at how harm and responsibility evoke feelings of guilt and shame, and how the emotions drive compensatory behaviour.

In the game, there were five players: four deciders and one receiver. A picture of dots was presented on each decider's computer screen. Each decider indicated whether the number of dots was more than or less than 20 based on their own estimation by pressing a corresponding button and was unaware of the estimations made by other deciders.

If a decider made an incorrect estimate, they would not receive a shock, but the 'receiver' would, whose intensity was randomly determined. Unknown to the participants, the deciders were accomplices, and the receiver was fictitious, the researchers said.

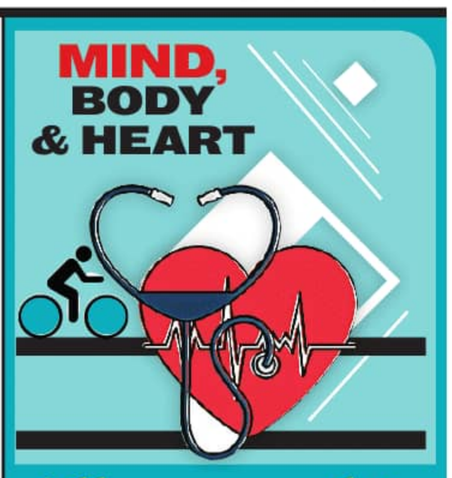
After each outcome, the participant decided how much financial compensation to give to the receiver.

"Behaviorally, we found that harm had a stronger impact on guilt, whereas responsibility had a stronger impact on shame," the authors wrote.

"Moreover, compared to shame, guilt exerted a greater effect on compensation," they said.

Insights from the study also indicated that harm and responsibility are integrated in people in a manner that is consistent with responsibility diffusion, where one feels less responsibility in making a decision in a group setting, compared to when on their own, the researchers said.

The brain region 'posterior insula' -- known to be involved in processing bodily sensations -- was found to help process inequity in the game, and the 'striatum' in computing value. —PTI



All you need to know about...

Mechanics of hunger

Protein trigger

Researchers have identified a previously overlooked protein that helps regulate appetite and energy use in the body. This "helper" protein supports a key system that decides whether the body burns energy or stores it, and when it does not function properly, appetite signals can weaken.

Partner on the job

New research suggests that a protein the body relies on to manage appetite and energy levels cannot function on its own. Instead, it depends on a partner protein to work properly.

This discovery could help scientists better understand how genetic factors contribute to obesity.

In a study published in Science Signalling on December 16, an international research team led by scientists at the University of Birmingham examined how a helper protein known as MRAP2 supports an appetite-regulating protein called MC3R.

MC3R plays a key role in deciding whether the body stores energy or uses it.

This result suggests that MRAP2 helps MC3R do its job of balancing energy intake with energy use. The team also identified specific regions of MRAP2 that are required for supporting signalling through both MC3R and MC4R.

Genes and obesity

The researchers then investigated what happens when MRAP2 carries genetic mutations that have been identified in some people with obesity. In these experiments, mutated versions of the supporter protein (MRAP2) failed to boost MC3R signalling.

As a result, the appetite-regulating protein did not respond as effectively.

These findings indicate that changes in MRAP2 can interfere with the hormone system that normally helps maintain energy balance.

When this system does not work as intended, appetite regulation may be disrupted.

—ANI

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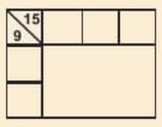
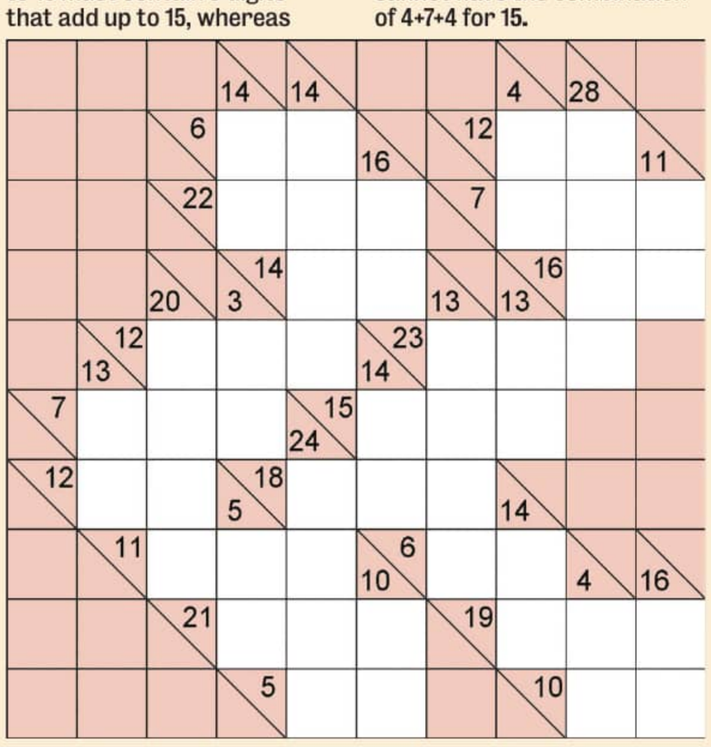
Kakuro

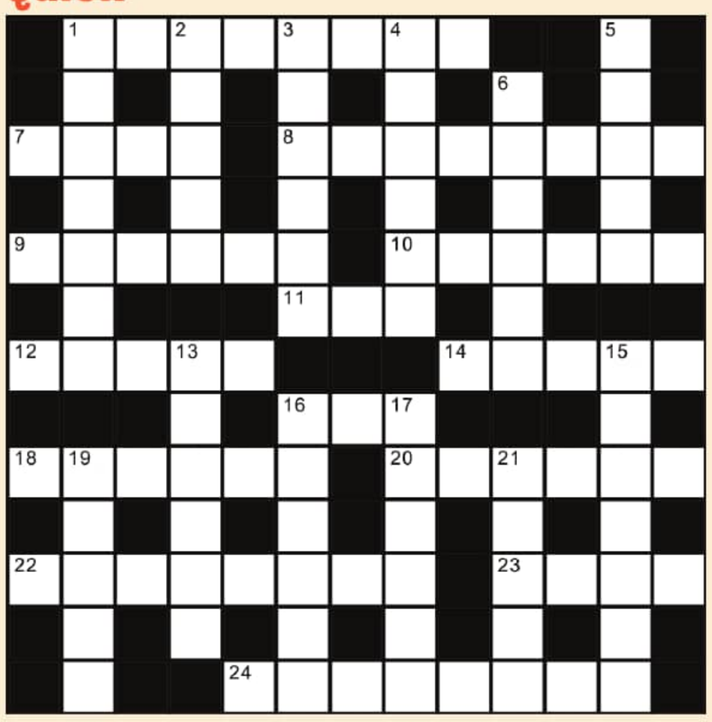
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Assassination, killing or murder (8)
7 String instrument (4)
8 Choruses (8)
9 Paper handkerchief (6)
10 Flag or banner (6)
11 Counterfeit article (3)
12 Joyous (5)
14 Pocket bottle (5)
16 Not many (3)
18 Ex-India and Mumbai paceman Karsan ___ (6)
20 It provides shade or protection against sunlight (6)
22 Swiss cheese–"lament me" anagram (8)
23 A small knife (4)
24 Chaos, frenzy or panic (8)

DOWN

1 Rural pleasure excursion (7)
2 ___ the case : is adequate (5)
3 Sculpted or engraved (6)
4 Challenged or braved (6)
5 An unforeseen obstacle (1,4)
6 Gretels kin (6)
13 Assessment (6)
15 Spiced Spanish wine (7)
16 Grimy, dirty or shabby (6)
17 You may keep your money in it (6)
19 Tourist destination which used to be the capital of the Vijayanagar Empire (5)
21 The lowest point (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: T EQUALS G

LA GME RWDQ QM HLJY W HMDT HLAY, AMIEC MD NWOLDT IMDQXLSEQLMDC.

Linemaro

Kiss me if I'm wrong but dinosaurs still exist, right?

Mindchow

The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts

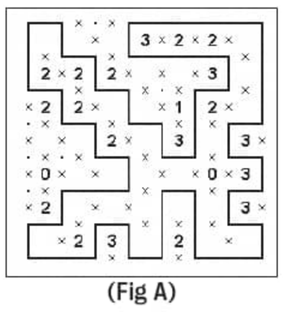
Joke of the day

I travel all over the world, but always stay in my corner. What am I? A stamp

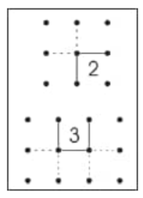
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

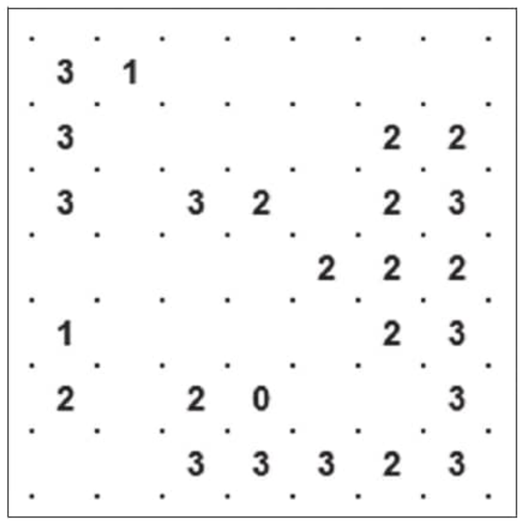


(Fig B) Not Allowed

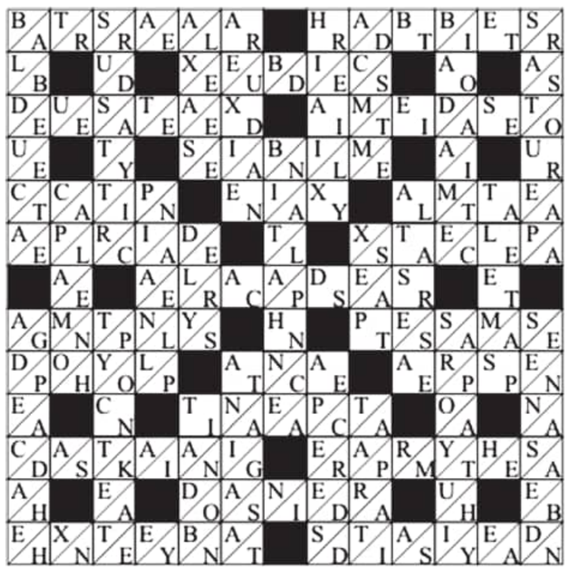
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



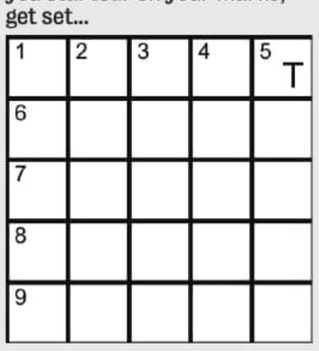
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

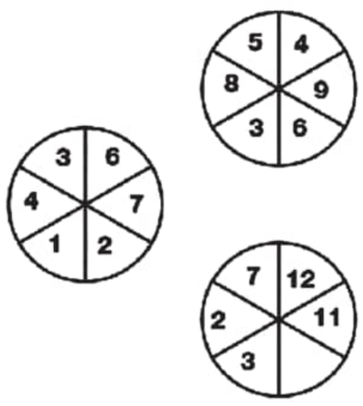
1 DDT is; 6 Nu Awe; 7 Acids; 8 An net; 9 Glede

DOWN

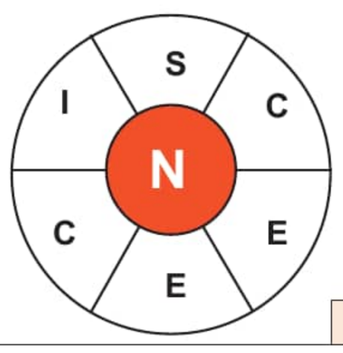
1 Claud; 2 A nine; 3 Added; 4 Wings; 5 Et set

Mensapuzzle

Which number is missing from the third wheel?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

05 Average; **06** Good; **08** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

1	2					4		
4		9		1				8
			4	7			1	
	1				5	8		
9	5						4	3
		3	1				9	
	6			4	2			
2				3		5		4
		5					6	7

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 4

1 2 3 6

Medium

= 18

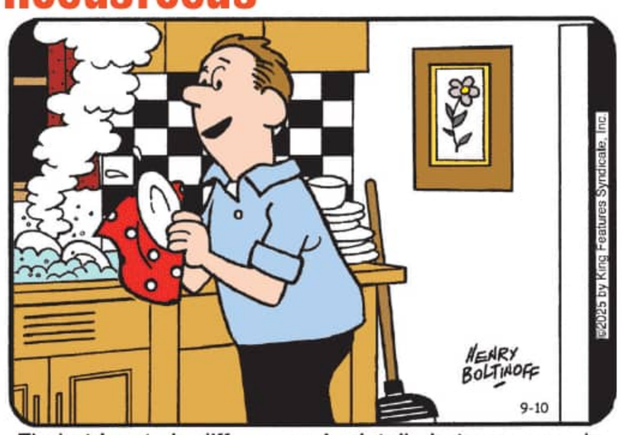
7 5 4 3

Hard

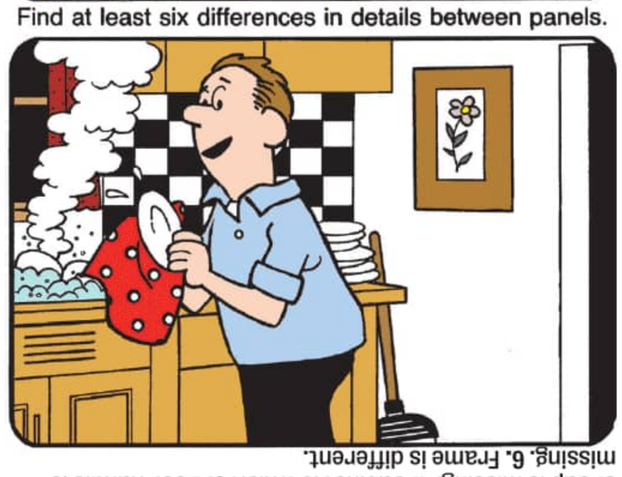
= 2

3 3 6 6

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



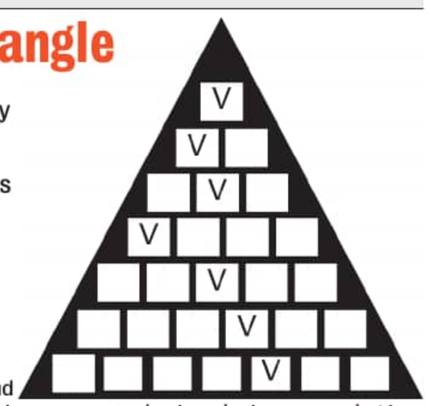
Differences: 1. Broom handle is shorter. 2. Towel is longer. 3. Cup is missing. 4. Cabinet is wider. 5. Door handle is missing. 6. Frame is different.

Riddler

A married couple is traveling by bus on dangerous mountain roads. Midway through their journey the bus stops for snacks and a restroom break. The couple is enjoying the postcards in the store when the bus driver curtly tells them it's past time to leave. Fifteen minutes after, the bus is hit by a mud slide and two people are killed. The couple blames themselves for the deaths. Why?

Alpha triangle

1 Volt
2 May 8, 1945: _ Day
3 Electric vehicles
4 Contends
5 Homes for drones
6 Tremble
7 Prospers



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

WHEEeee!
AN ANSWER TO MY ADVERTISEMENT FOR A HUSBAND!
MY DEAR MISS OYL..... I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO BECOME YOUR HUSBAND..... SIGNED---?
GULP!?! IT'S SIGNED BY A KING!
3-21
BUDSAGENDORF
popeye.com
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Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

HEY, CUZZO!! WHAT'S UP?
KEVIN!
GOT ANY NEW COLLECTIBLES?
NONE FOR YOU TO SELL, KEVIN.
I CAN'T HELP BEING ENTERPRISING.
KEVIN TRIED TO GET BRENT TO SELL HIS PRIZED CADET LUNA FIGURE COLLECTION SO BRENT COULD AFFORD THE NEW NIKE AIR FORCES.
GOOD INTENTION, BAD EXECUTION.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

YOU'VE GOT TO COME OUT FROM UNDER THE BED SOMETIME, DAD...
IT'S GOT TO BE PRETTY COLD UNDER THERE.
HAS ANYONE SEEN THE SPACE HEATER FROM THE BATHROOM?
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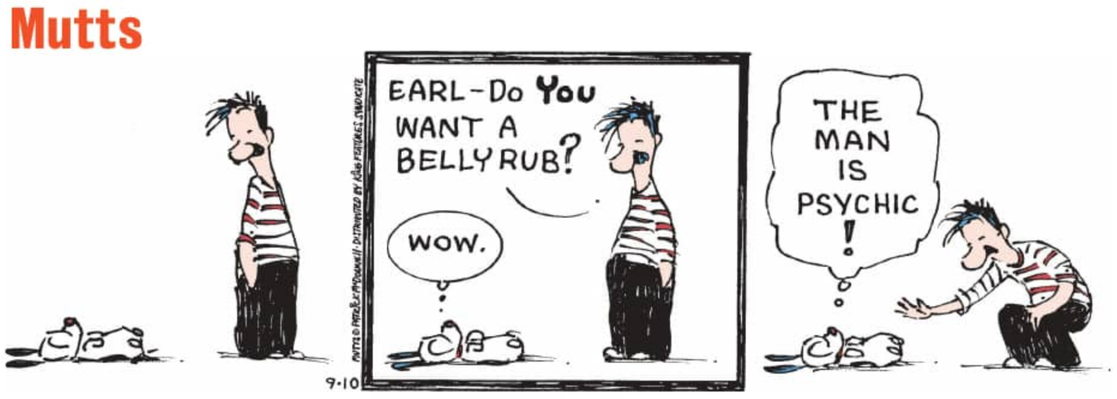
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
9-10

Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

As you approach your sign change boundary, reflect on the lessons learned this past year. What philosophies have proven true? What adventures enriched your soul? A sense of closure and accomplishment settles over you, preparing you for the disciplined focus of the next sign. Celebrate your growth before entering a more grounded, ambitious phase.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

Delayed projects receive momentum today as colleagues help restart progress. Family warmth appears at home; music soothes the mind. Explore a creative pursuit—painting or dance—to refresh your spirit and express joy.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20

Avoid mental exhaustion by pacing yourself; don't overwork. Financial discussions with your partner may emerge, though investments bring gains. Prioritise health, avoid travel, and keep a balanced approach to preserve wellbeing and harmony.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21

Work travel invites indecision; trust your instincts while planning. Reconnect with siblings socially, and couples prepare for a romantic day. Singles benefit from patience rather than rushing into online dating encounters today.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23

Focus on creative work and new contracts to expand social reputation. Avoid speculative bets in studies. Influential contacts enhance your standing, inviting invitations that boost both professional network and social visibility.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Fatigue may dull your family over work today. Postpone new business ventures and focus on rest and recovery. Consider investments cautiously and save energy for upcoming opportunities once refreshed.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

A busy day demands careful driving and safety. Financial issues resolve gradually, but cold or cough symptoms might surface—take precautions and care. Prioritise health alongside responsibilities to maintain steady progress.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

You feel fearless and energetic, attracting superior's notice and potential promotion. Redecorate to express creativity and mix social with business gatherings. Expect some challenges with children's education, requiring patient involvement.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

Family financial responsibilities increase; on-site work demands may strain relationships. Children bring joy, and parental health issues find solutions. Stay practical and patient while navigating workplace tensions and domestic obligations.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

Positive results flow naturally; unexpected romantic feelings may arise. Job seekers uncover opportunities, and monetary gains are likely. Embrace the uplifting momentum and allow pleasant surprises to brighten your day and career.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

Take it slow and accept help when needed. Married couples might discover a new home; creatives face blocks earlier but find breakthroughs later. A past love may prompt reflection, leading to thoughtful decisions.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

Focus drifts—rest with family to rejuvenate. Singles attract attention; those with older children strengthen bonds. Prioritise family time over work and use this calming day to reconnect and refocus emotionally.

Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

Business faces challenges while domestic issues demand attention. Children's disputes and household finances require careful handling. Allocate time for problem-solving; patience and practical steps help restore balance amid a hectic day.

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

((45/5) x (8/2))^1/2
(9x4)^1/2
(36)^1/2
6

BULL'S EYE

nice, niece, scene, scenic, SCIENCE, seen, since, sine

STRIKE OUT

A	R	R	E	A	R	■	H	A	B	I	T	S	■	■
B	■	U	■	X	E	B	E	C	■	O	■	A	■	■
D	U	S	T	E	D	■	A	M	I	D	S	T	■	■
U	■	T	■	S	A	B	L	E	■	A	■	R	■	■
C	A	I	N	■	N	A	Y	■	A	T	T	A	■	■
E	L	C	I	D	■	L	■	S	T	E	E	P	■	■
■	A	■	A	R	C	A	D	E	S	■	E	■	■	■
A	M	P	L	Y	■	N	■	T	E	A	M	S	■	■
P	O	O	L	■	A	C	E	■	A	P	S	E	■	■
A	■	C	■	I	N	E	P	T	■	A	■	N	■	■
C	A	K	I	N	G	■	E	A	R	T	H	S	■	■
H	■	E	■	O	S	I	E	R	■	H	■	E	■	■
E	X	T	E	N	T	■	S	T	A	Y	E	D	■	■

FAST FIVE

D	I	D	S	T
U	N	A	W	E
C	A	D	I	S
A	N	E	N	T
L	E	D	G	E

QUOTE UNCODE

If you want to live a long life, focus on making contributions.

QUICK

H	O	M	I	■	C	I	D	E	■	■	■	A	■	■
A	■	E	■	A	■	E	■	H	■	■	■	S	■	■
L	Y	R	E	■	R	E	F	R	A	I	N	S	■	■
R	■	T	■	V	■	I	■	N	■	A	■	■	■	■
T	I	S	S	U	E	■	E	N	S	I	G	N	■	■
D	■	■	■	D	U	D	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	■
M	E	R	R	Y	■	F	L	A	S	K	■	■	■	■
■	E	■	■	■	F	E	W	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
G	H	A	V	R	I	■	A	W	N	I	N	G	■	■
A	■	I	■	L	■	L	■	A	■	G	■	■	■	■
E	M	M	E	N	T	A	L	■	D	I	R	K	■	■
P	■	W	■	H	■	E	■	I	■	I	■	■	■	■
I	■	■	H	Y	S	T	E	R	I	A	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE

8. In each circle, the sum of the odd numbers plus one equals the sum of the even numbers.

RIDDLER

They blame themselves because they caused the bus to be late. If they had been on time, the bus would have already passed the location of the mud slide.

SUDOKU

1	2	6	8	5	3	4	7	9
4	7	9	2	1	6	3	5	8
5	3	8	4	7	9	6	1	2
7	1	4	3	9	5	8	2	6
9	5	2	7	6	8	1	4	3
6	8	3	1	2	4	7	9	5
8	6	7	5	4	2	9	3	1
2	9	1	6	3	7	5	8	4
3	4	5	9	8	1	2	6	7

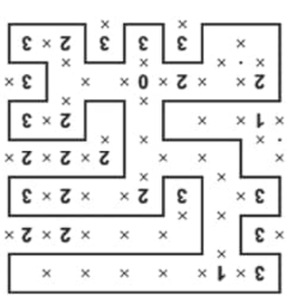
ALPHA TRIANGLE

V, VE, EVs, Vies, Hives, Shiver, Thrives.

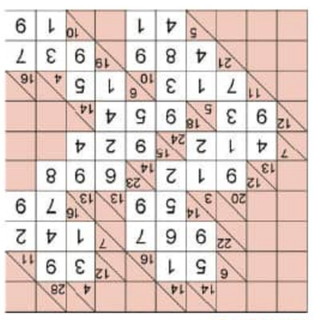
GO FIGURE

Easy
6 - 3 - 1 + 2 = 4
Medium
5 x 3 + 7 - 4 = 18
Hard
3 + 6 + 3 \ 6 = 2

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Madhuri Dixit offloads Juhu apartment for ₹3.9 cr, joins list of celebs making property moves

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

No wig barriers

Raj B Shetty is known for fully immersing himself in the characters he portrays and is regarded as one of the most talented actors in the Kannada film industry. One defining trait is his openness about baldness, which he acknowledges publicly. He played the lead in Ondu Motteya Kathe (2017), a film about a bald man that strongly resonated with audiences. Shetty usually prefers acting without a wig, staying true to his natural appearance. However, for his latest film, Landlord, he has made an exception.

At the teaser launch of Landlord, Raj B Shetty spoke about his discomfort wearing wigs on camera. He said he agreed to the project to support director Jadesh Hampi, a newcomer. Shetty plays a power-hungry villain, and the director believed the character required hair. Though initially hesitant, he eventually found a wig that suited him and was satisfied with its onscreen look. His character speaks Kannada with Kolar diction. Landlord also marks his first collaboration with Duniya Vijay and is scheduled for release on January 23, 2026, next year nationwide.

Music meets magic

The team of the Kannada film Balaramana Dinagalu is excited about the release of its song Shur Shuru. The track is composed by acclaimed music director Santosh Narayanan, with vocals by Sanchit Hegde and Punya, and lyrics by Jayant Kaikini. Director K M Chaitanya, known for Aa Dinagalu, returns after a five-year gap, his last film being Aadya, released in 2020.

The film is produced by Padmavathy Jayaram and Shreyas. Vinod Prabhakar plays the lead, with Priya Anand opposite him, and the film marks Vinod's 25th outing as a hero.

Chaitanya clarified that Balaramana Dinagalu is not a sequel to Aa Dinagalu, calling it a fictional story. He added that the song launch officially begins promotions.

Vinod said the audio rights fetched the highest revenue of his career. Priya Anand said this is her fifth Kannada film and recalled learning the language from Puneeth Rajkumar. Santosh Narayanan, who has scored nearly 100 films, said Shur Shuru will rank among his top ten songs globally.

RADHIKA APTE DRAWS THE LINE

Radhika Apte joins industry debate demanding fixed work hours

Deepika Padukone recently sparked a much-needed conversation on working hours in the film industry. Her reported exit from a project after asking for fixed work shifts as a working mother brought long-ignored issues into focus. From excessively long shooting days to lack of breaks and family time, the discussion resonated across the industry, prompting actors and filmmakers to share experiences.

Adding her voice, actor Radhika Apte spoke candidly about setting firm boundaries as a new mother. The Andhadhun actor, who recently celebrated her daughter's first birthday, said she can no longer agree to long, undefined workdays and will only take projects respecting fixed hours.

Speaking to Hindustan Times, Apte said she would not work unless producers agreed to 12-hour shifts, including travel, makeup and hair. Otherwise, she said, actors often end up working nearly 16 hours daily, leaving little time for rest or family life.

Apte stressed that such schedules make it impossible to spend meaningful time with a child. She added that actors frequently lack weekly offs and even lunch breaks, making the situation unsustainable and mentally exhausting.

Apte recently travelled to Mumbai for Saali Mohabbat promotions, marking her first separation from her daughter in over a year. While emotionally difficult, she said shared parenting responsibilities helped ease the transition for now. **—ETimes**

New year, new life Samantha

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu is ready to welcome 2026 with clarity and purpose. Recently married director Raj Nidimoru shared her New Year's resolutions on social media, expressing her desire to slow down and cultivate meaningful connections in both personal and professional life. Her main goal for 2026 is creating deeper, more intentional relationships.

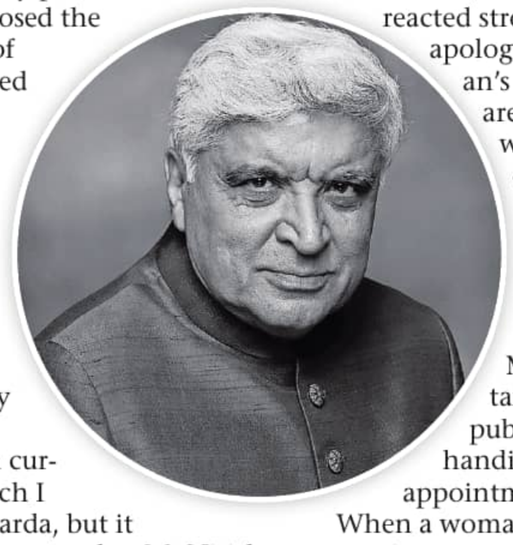
Samantha's resolutions reflect balance and inner growth. "Gratitude, exercise for long-term health, deep relationships, giving back to the community, listening to intuition, sustainable work, sustainable growth, and connectedness with purpose" were among her commitments. These choices show her focus on inner peace, personal development, and holistic growth beyond fame and career achievements.

She recently tied the knot in a traditional ceremony at the Isha Yoga Center in Coimbatore, attended by family and close friends. Samantha announced her wedding on December 1 with a simple caption, "01.12.2025," and public appearances with her husband in Mumbai were warmly received by fans.

Samantha and Raj Nidimoru first collaborated on 'The Family Man 2' and reunited for international projects like 'Citadel: Honey Bunny'. After her previous marriage to actor Naga Chaitanya ended in 2021, Samantha now approaches life with clarity, moving intentionally in 2026. Her resolutions signal a year of balance, purpose, and personal fulfillment alongside her professional journey. **—ETimes**

Akhtar slams Nitish incident

Veteran writer and lyricist Javed Akhtar has strongly condemned Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar over a public incident where a woman's naqab was forcibly pulled. While Akhtar has long opposed the traditional concept of 'parda,' he emphasised that this belief does not justify the act and stated that the Chief Minister owes the woman an unconditional apology.



Reacting to the viral video, Akhtar wrote on X (formerly Twitter), "Everyone who knows me even cursory knows how much I oppose traditional parda, but it doesn't mean I can accept what Mr Nitish Kumar has done to a Muslim lady doctor… Mr Nitish Kumar owes an unconditional apology to the lady."

Akhtar also dismissed accusations of selective outrage online, responding sharply, "How dare you accuse me of selective outrage. If you don't know how strongly I oppose right-wingers and regressives of my own community, you are an imbecile."

Former actor Zaira Wasim also reacted strongly, demanding an apology. She wrote, "A woman's dignity and modesty are not props to toy with… @NitishKumar owes that woman an unconditional apology."

The incident occurred at the Bihar Chief Minister's secretariat during a public programme handing out appointment letters. When a woman approached wearing a naqab, Nitish Kumar reportedly asked, "What is this?" and pulled it off in front of everyone, an act widely shared on social media. **—ETimes**

Sweeney's holiday escape

After a packed year filled with high-profile projects, actress Sydney Sweeney is looking forward to slowing down and enjoying well-earned time off this Christmas. The actor, who starred in several notable releases in 2025, including Christy and The Housemaid, revealed she plans to travel during the festive season, something she has never done before.

Speaking to Extra, Sweeney shared her excitement about the break. "I'm going to travel. I've never travelled the holidays before," she said, adding that the downtime feels rewarding after months of intense work.

While she stayed tight-lipped about details, she admitted she is eager to finally speak about the new season with fans. "I'm really looking forward to being able to talk about it. It's coming soon, so I'll have more to share in the new year," she said.

Reflecting on her career, Sweeney said she is drawn to roles that explore different perspectives and versions of life. She also addressed perceptions around the sexualisation of her roles, noting that projects like Reality, Americana and The White Lotus were not overtly sexual.

As the year ends, Sweeney is ready to embrace travel, rest and a festive reset. **— IANS**